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Snapped around Services photo page



What is it?

This geometric design is made up of personal flotation devices hanging on a rack at the Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., Outdoor Recreation office. On all river trips, customers are required to wear a Coast Guard-approved buoyancy vest properly called a PFD. If you have any unusual photos you'd like to see printed in the News & Views, send them to steve.vanwert@agency.afsv.af.mil. Courtesy photo

Life's a picnic

Seven-month-old John Emery is all smiles as Barbara Geddy, a Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., child development center caregiver, plays with Alyssa Erdman. Parents, children and CDC caregivers joined together for food and fun at the CDC picnic recently. Photo by 1st Lt. Albert Bosco



I'm diggin' this

Savannah Kocsis dumps dirt into a hole to plant a tree for Arbor Day recently in front of the Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, Child Development Center. Every child was allowed to place one shovel full of dirt in the hole. At the event, the CDC children sang songs and heard the history of Arbor Day. Photo by Senior Airman Mitchell Stein

News & Views

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Armed Forces Entertainment:

Entertaining our troops over the holidays

By Maj. Sherry Turner
Armed Forces Entertainment

With the recent observance of Memorial Day and the upcoming celebration of Independence Day, the staff of Armed Forces Entertainment has been busy recruiting and deploying entertainers to perform for, and visit with, as many of our Service men and women overseas as possible. In fact, the need for live, quality U. S. entertainment has never been greater, nor AFE busier than now, to show our troops that we support them; that we appreciate their valor and patriotism, and that a day never passes that we don't think of them and the sacrifices made on our behalf.

Armed Forces Entertainment has 33 entertainment groups identified to tour between June and August 2005. Retired National Basketball star Charles Barkley and retired National Football player Roy Green, along with Henry Rollins and the Ty England band are just a few of the celebrities heading out to spend some time with troops in the Southwest Asia and Pacific circuits. Dozens of other bands, cheerleaders, comedians and magicians/family entertainers are heading out to not only SWA and the Pacific, but also to the Caribbean, Mediterranean, Balkans and Europe.

Thousands of entertainers from across the United States have voiced an interest and desire to

entertain our troops and family members. Many applicants have friends or family members serving in the Armed Forces or they, themselves, are veterans with strong ties to the military. Without fear or concern for their own safety, most of our entertainers are more than willing to travel to SWA, including Iraq and Afghanistan, to say "thank you." The only things they look for in return are the smiles, laughter, friendly conversation and a little camaraderie. Our entertainers are indeed selfless individuals who do it for the troops.

Take a look at some of the talent we currently have touring or getting ready to head out. You can't beat the entertainment or the price.

Services, MWR — supporting the military family for more than 200 years

By Steve VanWert
Air Force Services Agency

During the Revolutionary War, if George Washington slept there, a Services employee probably arranged for his billeting.

American morale, welfare and recreation programs were first introduced during the Revolutionary War. Our nation's first soldiers sang, raced horses, presented skits and played jokes while in camp, all in the spirit of maintaining morale. Programs created to serve the military, including billeting, food service and mortuary affairs, trace their roots to Valley Forge.

That was just the beginning. During the Civil War, soldiers played baseball, boxed, held foot races and enjoyed performances by minstrels and comedians. During World War I, President Woodrow Wilson established the Morale Branch. Their job was to provide facilities for entertainment, recreation and education of the thousands of citizen soldiers.

Music for the troops, which started in the 1700s with Army fife and drum corps, got a boost 200 years later when an Army infantry sergeant named Isreal Baline, stationed at New York's Camp Upton in Yaphank, Long Island, organized a soldier show he called "Yip Yip Yaphank." That soldier would become famous as Irving Berlin, a composer who left the Army and the nation a musical legacy and tradition still in place today.

Decades later, Air Force Entertainment, featuring Tops In Blue, the Air Force Expeditionary Enter-



Members of Tops In Blue, the Air Force Expeditionary Entertainment Troupe, take time from their entertainment schedule to visit wounded Airmen in Baghdad. Air Force photo

tainment Troupe made up entirely of active duty Airmen, entertains hundreds of thousands of American fighting men and their families.

In 1920, the Army Motion Picture Service was established, followed by the founding of service clubs during World War II.

The Services and MWR tradition is still in place, as well. Air Force MWR got its start as part of the Army Special Services prior to the Air Force becoming a separate service in 1947. In 1972, the Air Force Welfare Board Secretariat and Nonappropriated Fund financial matters office collocated with Headquarters Air Force Military Personnel Center and the Directorate of MWR.

In February 1991, MWR was designated as a Field Operating agency as part of the Air Force reorganization.

The Air Force Services Agency, located at San Antonio, Texas, was first established as the Air Force Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Center, and activated as a field operating agency on Feb. 5, 1991. It was re-designated the Air Force

Morale, Welfare and Recreation Agency on Aug. 1, 1991.

In 1993, MWR and Services merged Air Force wide. On Jan. 1, 1994 it was given its present name, Air Force Services Agency, reflecting the merger's success and focusing directly on what its programs are all about: service.

Today, Air Force Services Agency's mission is simple: to support our Air Force and Services leadership, major commands, field commanders and base-level Services units to help accomplish the greater Air Force mission and improve quality of life for all personnel and their families.

"Services programs are critical parts of the Air Force readiness and retention program," said Col. Timothy Hanson, Agency commander. "Services programs contribute to readiness and productivity by promoting fitness, esprit de corps and quality of life for Air Force people."

That Services tradition reaches all the way back to where and how well George Washington slept, more than 200 years ago.

NAF Transformation report:

An introduction to the Expenditure Division

By Gwen Guzinski
Air Force Services
Agency

The Expenditure Division is responsible for the accounts payable and payroll functions for all Air Force Nonappropriated Fund Instrumentalities.

Timely and accurate payments will be made in compliance with the Prompt Payment Act, as well as all local, state and federal regulations to all AF NAF vendors, AF NAF employees, and AF NAF retirees worldwide.

This division is comprised of two branches:

Accounts Payable Branch

All AF NAF vendor payments will originate from

this branch. We are currently exploring various alternatives of receiving the information required to comply with our three way matching requirements and certify payments.

Each alternative will be closely evaluated to ensure the new processes are streamlined and make the best use of limited resources – both at the base and at the Shared Service Center.

We are also working with personnel at the Air Force NAF Purchasing Office to take advantage of the Internet Based Purchasing System to the maximum extent possible.

Configuring the accounts payable module and establishing the business rules within the new Air Force Services Financial Management System has been challenging,

but at the same time a very interesting experience.

We are now beginning the exciting point in our project – that being the start of our comprehensive testing to ensure we have built our business rules correctly and our first opportunity to reap the benefits of all our efforts.

Payroll Branch

The payroll branch initially will process pay for all U.S. AF NAF employees and retirees. We are researching the specific requirements to process pay for local nationals and hope to be able to add that feature at some point in the future.

Time and attendance information will flow to the AFSFMS from the

labor management system.

Although this is currently TMX, we plan to field a new web-based time clock system in fiscal 2006.

Personnel data in the AFSFMS will be updated from an automated feed from the Defense Civilian Personnel Data System.

AF NAF employees and retirees will be able to access their leave and earnings statements on-line. They will also have self-service capabilities similar to those available to APF and military personnel through "MyPay."

Our "pre-testing" of centralized payroll by taking on AFRC payroll processing in January resulted in an annual savings to AFRC of \$100,000. Although we process the AFRC payroll using the

current NAFMIS payroll system, we have a list of "lessons learned" which will enable us to make a smoother transition when we begin deployment.

As we examine our current policies and procedures we will make changes, as necessary, to take advantage of newly gained efficiencies.

To ensure that everyone understands the new procedures, step-by-step written guidance will be provided to each activity manager and the RMF personnel for accounts payable and payroll.

Our goal is to work closely with our customers (you) at every location to ensure our vendors, employees, and retirees continue to be paid accurately and timely.

At ACC, first term Airmen learn about Services

By Steve VanWert
Air Force Services
Agency

New Airmen experiencing their first permanent party assignment learn about their base and their community through the First Term Airmen Center. At the center, they learn about available facilities in comfortable, classroom training.

Those assigned to Air Combat Command bases, however, end their week-long classes by swimming in the base pool, bowling, shooting trap or hitting the golf links, learning first-hand what Air Force Services offers.

The Services portion of FTAC began at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., according to Ed Fitzhenry, business operations flight chief at the 49th Service Squadron. The program gives new Airmen a break from the classroom and sweeps them along a full day of competition and recreation while they learn about the 49th SVS.

"I want the Holloman FTAC Program to be the benchmark for all FTACs," said Tech. Sgt. Danny Davis, FTAC director.

New Airmen begin the day with a golf scramble at the Apache Mesa Golf Course and end with a nine-pin no-tap

bowling tournament at the Desert Lanes Bowling Center. During the day, the Airmen participate in a paintball war, learn the ropes at the Auto Skills Center and tour the Skills Development Center. They visit the Digital Mania Zone and other programs at the community center, the enlisted club and finish with the fitness center.

"Our goal is to encourage Airmen to take advantage of what we have to offer," said Lt. Col. Terri Toppin, 49th SVS commander.

Services Day is now part of the mandated ACC FTAC curriculum.

At Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, Services was previously limited to a 25-minute lecture to FTAC students that simply didn't give enough time to tell the Services story. Now, FTAC students tour each Services facility on base, including a lunch with the president of the Mountain Home Chief's Group and an introduction to Services Sam, the

366th Services Squadron mascot. Included in their itinerary are putting contests, a "climb off" at the fitness center climbing wall, a bowling game at Thunder Alley and one mini-round of skeet shooting.

"In the five months since we implemented the program, a number of our facility managers have reported increased return visits from young Airmen," said Ron Dillon, MHAFB Services Marketing Director.

FTAC students at Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., eat lunch at the enlisted club and tour the Family Fun Park where they play mini golf, ride go-carts and use the batting cages or go swimming.

"FTAC Services Day is a huge success," said Candie Marriner, 4th Services Marketing Director at Seymour Johnson AFB.

At Cannon AFB, N.M., FTAC is enhanced by support of the local community. "Meals are sponsored by

the staff at Cannon Federal Credit Union," said Yolanda Romero, 27th Services Marketing Director at Cannon.

According to Carole Barton, ACC Services, the FTAC Services Day program demonstrates the command's commitment to nurturing young Airmen and setting them up for immediate success upon arrival at their first home station.

"It provides hands-on orientation at many Services activities," she said. "It fosters new friendships between classmates and encourages teamwork and creates esprit de corps in the FTAC classroom."

"Team building, decision making and leadership tasks are built into the day's events to provide follow-up exercises to classroom discussions," she added.

It's a special "welcome" for new Airmen, not just to an ACC base, but to the myriad of quality of life programs offered by Air Force Services.



FTAC students sink a few putts at the Cannon Air Force Base, N.M., Whispering Winds Golf Course. Photo by Yolanda Romero

A News & Views commentary

Enlisted to AFIT 2006 – start now!

By Chief Master Sgt. Owen Davies
Directorate of Services/ILV

There is no reason why academically qualified enlisted persons could not attend AFIT as full-time students.

This statement was in a report delivered to Congress by the Air Force Institute of Technology almost four years ago. Shortly after, the Secretary of the Air Force directed this initiative to give qualified Air Force enlisted an opportunity to receive an in-residence advanced academic degree through AFIT at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

Late last year, I sent out a memo to 78 Services folks who had their bachelor's degree and seemed eligible to compete for the 2005 AFIT graduate degree program. Services candidates competed for the master's of science in logistics management program. The graduate logistics management program provides students with the opportunity to learn and exercise state-of-the-art management knowledge and tools to solve defense acquisition and logistics problems. The curriculum includes courses in statistics, operations research, organization and management theory, inventory systems, transportation and strategic mobility, maintenance and production management, financial management, and economics and would have provided a great academic basis for follow-on assignments on MAJCOM readiness staff's or many other strategic level positions within the career field.

The eligibility requirements included being an active duty technical sergeant through chief master sergeant with extensive career field experience, resident professional military education training, graduate record examination/graduate management admission test score sheet, and a bachelor's degree awarded from a regionally accredited institution. One of our finest, Tech. Sgt. Suzanne Roe from the 497th CTS/SVS at Paya Lebar IAP, Singapore was the first to step forward, and although she did not make the final cut, she certainly had one of the most competitive packages in the group that applied this year. Here's what she had to say about her experience:

"I recently applied for the Enlisted to AFIT program and regrettably, I did not get accepted. Like anything, it was a learning experience that I would like to share. First of all, if you have your bachelor's degree and this is something that may interest you, go and look at the degree requirements and pre-requisites at <http://www.afit.edu/> AFIT is such a great deal. The enlisted to AFIT program allows you to be a full time student and earn your masters degree in a career field related area while in residence at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. If this opportunity interests you, I would first compare your degree/GPA with the AFIT requirements as well as the scores for the GRE or GMAT. If you have not taken the GRE or GMAT, I recommend you give yourself ample time to prepare, test and possibly



retest before the end of this calendar year. The professor who counseled me suggested a study ratio of three hours per day for a few months before taking the test. There is free downloadable software with a pretest at <http://www.gre.org/> and this will give you an idea on how much or little preparation you will need. I encourage anyone who is interested to take to look at where you stand now and if you are not where AFIT needs you to be, you have sufficient time between now and December to improve. The support and encouragement I had from my front line supervisor to the ILV staff kept me motivated and focused. If you are looking for a challenge, I recommend the Enlisted to AFIT program."

I am very proud of Sergeant Roe and am absolutely certain that we have a good number of strong candidates in the Services career field that could easily be selected for the Enlisted to AFIT positions. Not only will it help you personally, but also professionally as you continue to compete for promotion.

If anyone is interested, or has further questions on the program requirements, don't hesitate to call me at DSN 664-4929. I can also be reached by email at Owen.Davies@Pentagon.af.mil

Military free cash just got better

By Jimmy Johnson
Air Force Services
Agency

In 2004 Chase Bank, in conjunction with Air Force Clubs, launched its Military Free Cash Program. This "cash back" points program offers Air Force Club Members two points for every dollar in purchases made on their club membership card in all Services activities and base exchanges

(except gas purchases that count as one point).

All purchases made off base are on a one point per dollar-spent basis. Points generated can be redeemed for cash or for gift cards to major merchants.

Recently, the commissary was included in the two-point category, giving Air Force Club members additional buying power on

base. "The Military Free Cash Program is a one-of-a-kind program designed specifically for our members and is the 'standard' offer made to all new club members," said Frank Black, Chief, Air Force Clubs. "Not only is the program a terrific value, it's absolutely free".

Military Free Cash at a glance:

Earn one point for every dollar in

purchases off base. Get two points for every dollar in purchases in all Services activities, the commissary, and the base exchange (except gas purchases, which are worth one point).

Redeem your points as soon as you reach 2,500.

Choose from either a \$25 check, or a \$25 gift card/certificate from a wide variety of world-class mer-

chants for every 2,500 points earned. Points accumulate automatically and are tallied on your monthly billing statement.

Points are good for a full 2 years.

There is no yearly program fee.

For more information on Military Free Cash, or other exclusive offers for Air Force Club members, stop by your local club today.

Changes to Air Force fitness program emphasize year-round conditioning

Courtesy 71st FTW Public Affairs

Recent changes to the Air Force Fitness Program will help the program achieve its goal of motivating members to participate in a year-round physical conditioning program.

The program emphasizes total fitness, which includes proper aerobic conditioning, strength or flexibility training and healthy eating.

Interim Change 2005-1 to Air Force Instruction 10-248 implements new guidelines that clarify requirements for a fitness program.

According to Adam Sloat, Vance Air Force Base, Calif., fitness program manager, highlights of the changes include:

- All poor and marginal scores must be retested in 90 days.

- Component Exemptions - If the component (aerobic, crunches and push ups) exemption exceeded 30 days, the member is given six weeks following the expiration or clearance of the medical exemption for training.

- Fitness screening questionnaires must be completed prior to the fitness test (can complete them the day of the test).

- The pushups and crunches can be done before or after the 1.5-mile run. They must be completed after the cycle egometry test.

- The unit fitness program manager should schedule a Fitness Review Panel for members in the poor category who fail to achieve a higher score at the 90-day retest

- The abdominal circumference measurements will remain the same. Only new accessions into the Air Force will be assessed by the weight and body fat standards.

- Commanders may require individuals who do not present a professional military appearance to enter the fitness improvement program.

- Fitness scores will not be on performance reports, but the appropriate blocks on the front and back of the reports can.

"These changes are more stringent, but more beneficial," said Tech. Sgt. David McClelland, 71st Mission Support Squadron unit fitness program manager. "They will give commanders more guidance for overseeing what is essentially their program."

BACK TO BASICS

Editor's note: Periodically, this space will provide important information from one of Air Force Service Agency's branches. This issue, "Back to Basics" is provided by the Club Operations Branch.

Procedures, policies in AF Catering

Special Function revenues in Air Force clubs, continue to rise and contribute significantly to the overall food sales, an estimated 60 percent.

These sales reflect AF Club caterers are meeting and exceeding customer service expectations.

AF catering continues to thrive, a great achievement, even with the constant turnover of services staff members. Although catering sales and service levels continue to rise, several critical policies and procedures are being neglected.

This fact came to light during recent audits where it was repeatedly found that accounting procedures and policies were not being followed.

Here is the most frequent finding,

with corrective action.

Finding:

The accounting procedures outlined in Training Aid NA-8, as a general rule, are not being followed.

Reports to be provided by the Catering program and monitored by the NAF Accounting Office are either not being produced or are not used as intended for NAF AO oversight of the catering function.

Corrective Action:

AFI 34-272, para 2.9, and AFMAN 34-228, chapter 5, detail the club manager's responsibilities to ensure internal control over special functions.

Following are important accounting responsibilities for special functions:

The club manager ensures the caterer records all special functions in

the Air Force standard catering software.

Controlling special function contracts is critical. A special function contract has the potential to allow manipulation of cash or cover errors for fraudulent activities. The club manager ensures proper distribution of the banquet event order, to ensure all affected areas are receiving their copies, i.e., kitchen, wait staff, custodial, catering, and cashier's cage.

BEO's must not have member's personal information on the distribution copies. Ensure the caterer forwards a suspense copy of the Revenue Forecast Report to the NAF AO at least weekly.

This report gives the status of **prospective, tentative, definite, and can-**

celled special functions. This report is also a record of all party contract numbers that have been assigned.

The club manager documents all of these procedures for controlling and processing special function contracts in a local operating instruction and ensures all security functions in the standard catering software are properly employed.

Other noted policy violations were, members being charged a deposit, set-up and or room fees for personal functions (weddings, birthdays, etc...) at the club.

(Refer to: AF Catering to You Link: https://www-r.afsv.af.mil/Clubs_Ltd/Documents/Final%20catering%20to%20you.doc.)

Additional information providing guidance on AF Club policies and procedures can be found on the Air Force Services Agency website.

These sites are effective tools for club personal to gain knowledge on AF Club standards

and ensure the continued success of AF Catering and Clubs as a whole.

"Air Force Club Program", AFI 34-272: https://www-r.afsv.af.mil/Clubs_Ltd/Publications.htm

"Air Force Club Program Procedures", AFM 34-228: https://www-r.afsv.af.mil/Clubs_Ltd/Publications.htm

Air Force Clubs Link: https://www-r.afsv.af.mil/Clubs_Ltd/

Air Force Clubs Business Systems Link: https://www-r.afsv.af.mil/Clubs_Ltd/businesssystems.htm

Air Force Clubs Checklist: https://www-r.afsv.af.mil/Clubs_Ltd/Documents/ComplianceChecklist1.pdf

Training is also provided through various Club courses taught by the Air Force Services Agency.

A list and schedule for these courses can be found on the Air Force Services Agency Website at <https://www-r.afsv.af.mil/ED/Courses.htm>.

'Fit to Fight - Ready to Win' at AFRC Services Conference

By Phyllis Link
AFRC Services

Air Force Reserve Command's 2005 Services Conference not only talked the talk but also walked the walk with participants taking part in a fun run/walk that took place at picturesque Lake Nokomis located about 2 miles from the host site, Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station.

This year's conference host was Jerry Cardinal, AFRC Director of Services and his AFRC Services staff.

After a five year hiatus, conference participants were "primed, pumped and performance-ready" to network and learn all that they could from the three-day workshop.

The fun run/walk was one element on the agenda that was a true energizer for the group and most all were glad they took part.

The Minneapolis Services staff did an outstanding job hosting the conference, even though the first day seem more like winter

with snowflakes flirting in the air.

The week got progressively warmer and all had the opportunity to experience a meal outside from the Single Pallet Expeditionary Kitchen.

Two distinguished presenters, Roger Reynolds, Cooper Institute fitness expert; and Bill Middleton, customer care expert, spoke on how to maximize productivity along with healthy lifestyles and keeping our employees happy and energized.

Arthur Myers, director of Air Force Services and Col. Tim Hanson, commander, Air Force Services Agency, presented the "big picture" of Air Force Services.

The conference was a huge success based on feedback from participants.

Our mission was to provide a forum for AFRC neighborly networking and opportunities to share knowledge, and experiences to enrich attendees both professionally and privately.



Participants in the Air Force Reserve Command 2005 Services Conference began by taking part in a fun run/walk at picturesque Lake Nokomis. Courtesy photo

Robins shelters Florida military, civilians



More than 500 people from Eglin and Tyndall Air Force Bases, Fla., were evacuated to Robins AFB, Ga., prior to Hurricane Dennis hitting the Florida Gulf Coast. Here, cots were set up in the Robins fitness center. Photo by Sue Sapp

By Holly Birchfield
Robins Air Force Base,
Ga., Public Affairs

As Hurricane Dennis threatened to blow people from their homes at Florida Air Force bases, Robins Air Force Base, Ga., was awaiting with open arms.

More than 500 people from Eglin and Tyndall Air Force Bases and Hurlburt Field fled the whirlwind in Florida and sought shelter at Robins and the Middle Georgia community.

Days before the Category 3 storm slammed the main area of the Florida base with 55 mph

sustained winds and gusts over 82 mph, Robins was preparing for reception of active-duty military, civilians and their families.

From setting up cots in the base gym and housing units to providing meals and special activities to keep visitors entertained, Dan Wells, Family Support Center lead family readiness consultant, said Robins and the Middle Georgia community worked with Eglin support agencies to welcome people who became guests of the Robins' family.

"I think everything went super

well," he said. "Everyone really came through. Services did a super job and lodging made sure everyone had a place to stay."

Capt. Sandra Quinones, 78th Services Division Combat Support Flight commander, who along with the Robins Family Readiness Team provided blankets, pillows and personal hygiene items to incoming evacuees, said everyone played a role in hosting the group.

"It has been nothing but southern hospitality at its best," she said.

"They came in and we tried to make it

as easy as possible for them."

Col. Edmond Keith, 96th Air Base Wing commander at Eglin, said he's grateful Robins was there when his base needed them.

"The support was awesome," he said. "We went back to Robins because of the great job they did last year with Hurricane Ivan. I have nothing but good things to say about the support there."

Col. Greg Patterson, Robins base commander, said Robins came together as a team to help their Air Force neighbors. "Our family assis-

stance center kicked into action July 7 and supported more than 500 evacuees from Tyndall, Hurlburt and Eglin ever since," he said. "I am extremely proud of the support Team Robins provided to our neighboring bases over the weekend. This team, consisting of most of the support activities on base, perfected this process during the last three hurricanes, and is well prepared to support not only Robins' personnel, but also support our friends from Florida throughout the ongoing hurricane season."

Academy Services family rewarded with 'Extreme Makeover'

By Wayne Amann
Academy Spirit staff



Ty Pennington, "Extreme Makeover Home Edition" host, gets ready to escort the Barrett family on a tour of their new home. Photo by Kelly Peterson

They lined Highway 24 July 17 in rural Peyton, Colo., about 30 miles east of the Air Force Academy, straining to get a better glimpse of this real life 'Field of Dreams.'

Approximately 5,000 strong cheered wildly as a stretch limousine carrying an anxious Academy family pulled carefully along side a huge bus, so they couldn't see beyond it the miraculous transformation their address had undergone in just seven days.

Scripted? You bet.

The ABC television show "Extreme Makeover Home Edition," which picks deserving families for a complete dwelling makeover, unveiled its latest creation July 17. It is a 4,000 square-foot home and schoolhouse built for the Barretts.

The parents, Billy Jack and Anne, were being repaid for the extraordinary faith they have in children.

The orchestrated setting belied the spontaneous outpouring of emotion directed at this special mom and dad. The Barretts are well known in these parts for opening their hearts and home to troubled children by adopting them out of

foster care. Of their six kids, siblings Dusty and Daphne, plus A.J. and Jennifer, are adopted while Clara and Rebecca are theirs by birth.

"It feels strange to receive all this good will," the humble Mr. Barrett, manager of the 10th Services Squadron Academy Equestrian Center, said. "Anne and I have to learn how to be receivers. It's not the easiest thing to do."

Neither was tearing down their 101-year-old, 2,000 square foot, too-small-for-the-family, farmhouse.

After the Barretts were sent by the program for a weeklong Hawaiian vacation, the fun in the sun began locally.

The show's design team worked with a local home builder and a crew of more than 200 subcontractors and volunteers to build a contemporary farmhouse large enough for the family.

According to a news release from the builder, the new home was to reflect the heritage and sensibilities of the Colorado prairie, a solid,

Continued on next page

'Extreme Makeover' surprises Academy Services member, family

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practical, timeless home with as much warmth, heart and character as the family who will share it.

First, the old house had to go. Enter Radar, reportedly the world's largest horse at 19 hands tall, imported from Texas. The animal provided unique visuals for this episode, which airs in the fall, by pulling down walls.

It was fitting because horses play a special role in the Barrett's lives. As the founding parents of the Hope and Home Program, specializing in older, "unadoptable" children, they use the animals to help develop the youngsters.

"We were told by 'experts' these children would be institutionalized and on medication their entire lives," recalled Mr. Barrett, a former horse buyer for the Army at Fort Carson. "We brought them into our family and put them in the corral cleaning stalls and brushing horses. They accepted responsibility for the horses and it made all the difference. It does wonders for their self-esteem. Working with the animals, in this environment, is what really

helped us pull these kids out of where they were."

They've been in multiple foster homes, but thanks to home schooling by the Barretts, they're excelling academically with very bright futures.

"Their faith is in the talents they have to reach these kids," explained Extreme Makeover Design Team member and co-host Connie Ramos. "They use every life experience they've had to make a difference in their lives. When you meet people who are salt-of-the-earth, hard-working folks, who have a belief system that brightens the lives of everyone they come in contact with, that's something you remember forever."

Just ask Lonnie Aragon, Mr. Barrett's assistant manager at the Academy Equestrian Center.



The Barrett children will now attend school in this classically-designed "Little Red Schoolhouse." Photo by James Lovely

"I first met Billy Jack in '97 when I was incarcerated working at the long horse inmate program in Canyon City," he said. "When I came up for parole he said he'd like to be a support for me, be there for me and help the best way he could. He's been like a dad to me ever since."

Mr. Barrett's love for others is matched only by his love of horses, an affection he's had since first riding in a saddle at 18 months of age. Still, he was noticeably moved by this 'extreme' life changing event.

Before



The Barrett's 101-year-old farmhouse near Peyton, Colo., before demolition. Photo by James Lovely

After



The Barrett's new home, built in seven days, boasts more than 4,000 square feet of living space. Photo by James Lovely

Kadena, Spangdahlem '05 LeMay, Eubank winners

2005 Air Force Services award winners announced

Each year, the Air Force recognizes the best overall Services units with the award of the Gen. Curtis E. LeMay trophy (large base, with more than 6,000 assigned military and civilians) and the Maj. Gen. Eugene L. Eubank trophy (small base, with 6,000 or fewer assigned).

Also, it recognizes excellence in 19 individual categories and 21 Services programs through the Services awards program.

These individual, program and flight awards recognize those demonstrating the best leadership, management, customer focus and operational results during the past year.

Kadena Air Base, Japan, is the 2005 recipient of the LeMay trophy and Spangdahlem AB, Germany, is the winner of the Eubank trophy.

The other Services awards are:

Diane Campbell, chief of resource management at Langley Air Force Base, Va., is the winner of the Gen. Michael P.C. Carns award.

Lt. Col. Steven Whitney, chief of manpower, education and training at the Pentagon is the winner of the Lt. Gen. Norm Lezy award.

Wiyada Lee, youth director at the 39th Services Squadron, Incirlik AB, Turkey, is the winner of the Dr. Beverly L. Schmalzreid award.

Senior Airman Sara Higgins, food services production chef at the

18th SVS, Kadena AB, Japan, is the winner in the Airman category.

Capt. Gerald Narigon, Services officer at the 911th SVS, Pittsburgh International Airport Air Reserve Station, Pa., is the winner in the Reserve company grade officer category.

Lt. Col. Cynthia Eagle, U.S. Air Force Europe command protocol officer, Ramstein AB, is the winner in the Reserve field grade officer category.

Tech. Sgt. Norman Long, readiness manager at the 911th SVS, Pittsburgh IARS, is the winner in the Reserve noncommissioned officer category.

Senior Master Sgt. Dennis DiCampli, Services craftsmen superintendent, 90th SVS, F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo., is the winner in the Reserve senior noncommissioned officer category.

George Jones, chief, Business Operations Flight at the 18th SVS, Kadena AB, was the civilian flight chief winner.

Linda Crom, supervisor recreation specialist, 436th SVS, Ramstein AB, was the civilian manager winner.

Keesha Welch, lead program assistant, youth programs, 20th SVS, Shaw AFB, S. C., was the civilian specialist winner.

Carla Tubby, library technician, 72nd SVS, Tinker AFB, Okla., was the civilian technician winner.

Capt. Keithen Washington, Combat Support Flight commander, 18th SVS, Kadena AB, was the Company Grade Officer of the Year.

Lt. Col. John Williams, 96th SVS commander, Eglin AFB, Fla., was the Field Grade Officer of the Year.

Staff Sgt. Mike Ji, NCOIC, housekeeping, 51st SVS, Osan AB, Korea, was the NCOIC of the Year.

Dave Allen, director, 374th Services Division, Yokota AB, Japan, was the Senior Civilian Manager of the Year.

Kimberly Kamano-Manatad, supervisor, recreations assistant, Det. 1, 15th Mission Support Group, Bellows Air Force Station, Hawaii, was the Senior Civilian Specialist of the Year.

Senior Master Sgt. Donald Carney, Services superintendent, 509th SVS, Whiteman AFB, Mo., was the Senior NCOIC of the Year.

The **10th Services Division**, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo., won the Arts and Crafts award.

The **51st SVS**, Osan AB, won the bowling award.

The **8th SVS**, Kunsan AB, won the award for the best community center.

The **72nd Services Division**, Tinker AFB, Okla., had the best consolidated-collocated club.

Yokota AB's **374th Services Division** had the best enlisted club.

Continued on next page

Antiterrorism techniques in food safety

By George Miller
Chief, Air Force Food Service
Air Force Services Agency

There is a need for antiterrorism technologies due to concerns regarding intentional food and/or water contamination. Although the majority of literature and training scenarios on chemical and biological terrorism have dealt with large-scale, overt attacks using airborne agent delivery, covert attacks on smaller sub-populations, using food or water as a delivery vehicle are likely to occur.

Protection of food and water supplies from CB contamination has typically been viewed as a problem occurring subsequent to an aerosol delivery of CB agents. Unfortunately, the threat of intentional contamination directly to food and water supplies is real and should be assessed and handled accordingly.

In fact, food and waterborne terrorism might actually be a more likely scenario for smaller, less organized, terrorist groups. The low costs and ease in acquiring and producing large amounts of agent would be attractive to these groups.

Additionally, dissemination of agents in food and/or water may be far simpler than the difficulties encountered in attempting to deliver aerosolized agents.

The Department of Defense Combat Feeding program has been working on several initiatives to improve our surveillance capabilities. The DOD Combat Feeding Research and Engineering Program have been working on the use of biosensors to improve the sampling of foods for food safety.

One of the major projects being worked is Surface Scanning Biosensor for the Rapid Detection of Chemical and Microbial Contaminants from foods. The objective is to develop a scanning biosensor for the screening of pathogens and biological agents from whole food services. This will provide rapid detection, resulting in significant improvements in food safety, saving in labor and food costs.

This system will increase the capability of DOD to ensure quality food products and combat rations are available to our warfighters.

This will also reduce analysis time, and will ensure Veterinary Command, Military Public Health

and our food service managers that the military is serving safe foods.

It is not possible to predict when, where, or even how terrorists will strike a food and water system. An intelligence buildup or events that characterize a conventional tactical situation may not precede these strikes. Because of this and the fact that food and water systems are extensive sometimes reaching half way around the globe, local installations need to characterize threats unique to their area.

You will need to understand the following facts in developing a solid Food Safety program:

Understand what assets need to be protected;

Understand the various threats to food and water systems;

Develop a HACCP plan;

Identify critical control points;

Perform a HACCP analysis;

Understand protective measures that could be implemented; and

Understand constraints for implementing a HACCP plan.

We need to continue our consistent vigilance on protecting our food sources, supply systems, and food preparation. This will ensure our military personnel have safe foods.

2005 winners

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The 1st **Services Division** at Langley AFB, Va., won for having the best family child care and also the best fitness and sports program.

The 18th **SVS**, Kadena AB, won the award for the best child development center, best golf program, best officers' club, best human resources office, training, market-

ing, and best Information, Ticket and Tour office, as well as the George Washington Award for Protocol.

The 4th **SVS**, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C., won the award for the best library.

The 92nd **SVS**, Fairchild AFB, Wash., won the award for the best outdoor recreation program.

The best readiness program award went to the 96th **SVS**, Eglin AFB, Fla.

The best resource management flight was the 82nd **Services Division**, Sheppard AFB, Texas.

The 436th **SVS**, Dover AFB, Del., port mortuary won in the specialized category.

The 366th **SVS**, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, had the best youth programs.

Each individual winner is authorized to wear the Air Force recognition ribbon (military) or lapel pin (civilian).



Carolina Skies at Shaw

Club relocates; offers better service, buffet

Cadet Collins Cuyler, on temporary duty to Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., from the Air Force Academy, enjoys the buffet at Carolina Skies recently. Photo by Senior Airman Susan Penning

**By Senior Airman
Susan Penning
Shaw Air Force Base,
S.C., Public Affairs**

Shaw's all-ranks club has officially relocated to the conference center. The club, now called Carolina Skies, was moved to ease the burden on 20th Services Squadron staff and enhance customer service.

"The club (separated) into two buildings in the late 1990s. It created a problem because of the difficulty of staffing, shuttling food back and forth etc. We've been trying to get back to one location for some time," said

Roy Edgar, 20th SVS Business Flight chief.

David Merlino, club manager and chef by trade, is confident the move is a good one.

"This is a nicer facility and is more centrally located to lodging and the dorms," he said. "Our ultimate goal is great customer service. This move will help us accomplish that and will enhance food quality as well."

The name Carolina Skies came as a result of a contest where club members were asked to offer suggestions for a new name. The top five were sent to wing leadership to

make a final decision. Anne Baker came up with Carolina Skies and will receive 52 free lunches at the club for her idea.

Another feature that helps ease the burden on the staff and offers some new choices for customers is the addition of daily lunch and Friday night buffets.

"You can call to reserve a free private room for farewell lunches etc. and the buffet allows folks to quickly get their food," said Mr. Edgar.

It is the ideal place for a group function, he added.

The buffet offers a 14-item hot bar plus hoagie, salad, soup, dessert and beverage bars.

The buffet runs from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. weekdays and on Friday nights from 5 to 8 p.m. The cost for the lunch buffet is \$6.95 for members and \$7.95 for non-members. The Friday-night buffet is \$8.95 for members and \$10.95 for non-members.

Carolina Skies has already received some feedback from customers.

"There's a good variety of food, and prices are reasonable," said Airman Brandon Ludemann,

20th Operations Support Squadron.

"The baked cod is awesome," said Airman Nate Saunders, 20th OSS.

Airman Pete Schueler, 20th OSS, said, "Good food, good service!"

The barber shop and the information, tickets and travel office remain in the club's former building. Plans are to move the community center to the former Club Shaw facility and to use the community center building as a central location for the 20th SVS's marketing office, command section, etc.

New Bolling youth center taking shape

The Bolling Air Force Base, Md., Youth Center is under construction and is scheduled for completion in January 2006.

The new facility will house separate activity, study and computer rooms for both pre-teens and teens and will offer base youth a variety of new activities.

Children age nine and older will now be able to visit the youth center after school because the new facility will allow the recreation program to be separate from the school-age program.

Also, the new building will have a regulation-size gymnasium that meets size requirements for all basketball games up to high school level.

Recent policy changes regarding regulatory guidance for youth programs have been created to ensure the safety of all youth who attend youth center programs. The new policies require the youth center to register all youth and have registration forms that include parent and emergency contact information on hand. Children present for a one time event and under direct parental supervision do not require registration.

Beginning Aug. 1 the youth center, which is currently located in the community center, will begin registration. Registration will end by Oct. 1. In addition to completing the required forms, there will be a once-a-year registration fee of \$20

that guarantees access to all youth programs including sport activities, classes, open recreation and trips. The youth center will no longer have member and nonmember prices for activities. The goal is to have everyone register and be a member.

All sports fees will remain at \$40 per season. Class fees such as dance and gymnastics are negotiated each year with the instructor. School age program fees for the 2005-2006 school year will remain \$20, the same as the past school year. This is the first time since 2001 that the SAP fees have not been increased.

(Courtesy of the 11th Services Division)

First outdoor adventure camp highlights parent-teen bonding

By Eddie Kovsky
USAFA Public Affairs

The Air Force Academy's first annual Parent-Teen Outdoor Adventure Camp finished recently, but the bonds endure.

Active-duty Airmen and their spouses participated in the camp to reconnect with their children, ages 12-14. The idea for the camp came from staff members of the family member programs flight at the 10th Services Division

"I wanted to go because my daughter is at that stage where her bond with the family is not as strong as it used to be," said Master Sgt. Terry Blansett, 10th Mission Support Squadron family readiness program manager. "The camp was tremendously helpful in

strengthening the bond between my daughter and me. We became very close during this week and reestablished a lot of trust in each other. My daughter learned a lot about herself, as did I."

The participants traveled to LaForet camp in Black Forest, near Colorado Springs, to attend the week-long camp that consisted of a variety of indoor and outdoor activities. The outdoor facility features high and low rope courses, a swimming pool and a dining facility. All the lodging, meal and activity fees were paid for, leaving only travel costs to the attendees.

Each applicant had to submit an essay to the community activity director at their base in order to be selected. They also needed to be able to participate in a high and low ropes course that requires climbing, hiking,

horseback riding and white water rafting.

"The camp was designed to provide an opportunity for a parent who has been deployed or will be deployed, or their spouse who has endured the trials and struggles of keeping things going at home, to reconnect with their child," said Vincent Eure, 10th Services Division director of community activities. "Along with their child they spent a week at LaForet to work on their communication and trust, and reseal the bond that may have broken during the hard times at home while one parent was away."

The camp was funded by Air Force Headquarters. Participants traveled from around the country to attend.

An 'Idol' in uniform

Troops belt out tunes for 'USAFE Idol' talent show in Germany

By Scott Schonauer
Stars and Stripes European edition

Move over, Ruben.
Make room, Kelly and Fantasia.
The Air Force has its own "idol" in Europe sponsored by USAF Services.

Maj. Larry Speer, who got a rousing ovation from his home base crowd for singing Neil Diamond's "America," won the U.S. Air Forces in Europe singing contest at the Ramstein Air Base, Germany, Officers' Club.

Major Speer, a C-20 pilot with the Ramstein-based 76th Airlift Squadron, never thought he had a chance when he first heard the other seven singers.

"Vocally, they are amazing," he said, clutching his first place trophy.

"I just had no clue what was going to happen."

About 900 people attended the first-ever talent show that brought together the best Air Force singers from around the region. Pop singing couple Nick Lachey and Jessica Simpson, who put on a star-studded variety show on base the night before, gave out awards to the finalists.

While Speer doesn't get a record contract like "American Idol" TV show winners Ruben Studdard, Kelly Clarkson or Fantasia Barrino, he can boast that he is the best in the command.

Top singers from bases around the continent - from Iceland to Turkey - competed in a format borrowed from the hit Fox-TV franchise. The Air Force called their talent show "USAFE Idol."

Each person sang two songs of their choice, and four judges graded the performances to determine the winner.

Major Speer, who once sang for cover bands in high school and in church choirs, first sang Marc Cohn's "Walkin' in Memphis." He ended the night by



Maj. Larry Speer gestures to the crowd during his rendition of Neil Diamond's hit song "America" during the U.S. Air Forces in Europe Idol competition at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Major Speer, a C-20 pilot at Ramstein, won the singing contest. Photos by Scott Schonauer/S&S

flipping his collar up and belting out Diamond's 1981 patriotic hit.

He admitted that performing at his home base gave him a slight advantage over the other seven singers.

"Nothing wrong with home-court advantage," he said from the USAF Idol's "green room" backstage.

And just as the Fox talent show franchise has had its share of controversy, the USAF version wasn't without a little friendly debate. Everyone had a favorite.

Staff Sgt. Mark Dearmond thought Senior Airman Michael Lemorie of Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, should have won. His wife believed Senior Airman Elsie Lengyon from Lajes Field, Azores, earned the title.

Gen. Robert Foglesong, USAF commander, said it would be an annual event.



Celebrity award presenters Nick Lachey and Jessica Simpson interview Gen. Robert Foglesong.

Patrick O' Club demolished

“It was truly a sad sight to see the club come down.”

—Johnnie Rivera, former Officers' Club manager and current Tides manager.



Col. Mark Owen, 45th Space Wing commander, talks with Johnnie Rivera, former Officers' Club manager and current Tides manager as the remains of the Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., Officers' Club are demolished and hauled away July 15. Options for building a new officers' club are being addressed. No decision has been made yet. Photo by 1st Lt. Kevin Coffman

By 1st Lt. Kevin Coffman
Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., Public Affairs

The 45th Space Wing demolished the fire-damaged Officers' Club building July 15.

The Officers' Club was devastated by a fire January 31. It has been an icon on the Space Coast since 1951 as a part of Banana River Naval Air Station.

The club was in the process of being repaired from damage left by hurricanes Frances and Jeanne when the fire struck.

"It was truly a sad sight to see the club come down," said Johnnie Rivera, former Officers' Club manager and current Tides manager. "It really hits home now that it's gone."

On the night of the fire, more than 70 firefighters and safety officials from Patrick and several surrounding civilian communities responded to the fire.

"I'd like to thank the state of Florida, Brevard County and all the local municipalities that helped us respond to this disaster," said Lt. Col. Rick Czyzewski, 45th Mission Support Group deputy commander and on-scene commander. "Their support was critical."

It had about 3,800 members and was the hub of many social functions and special events on the base, such as various civic club events and weddings.

The Blockhouse, a separate building of the club, recently reopened and is in use as a meeting

place and social gathering location and hosts weekend events.

With all salvageable material removed from the fire-ravaged club, and all evidence removed, a contract crew used heavy equipment to knock down and remove the debris from the site where the club once stood proudly.

Flight path safety and hurricane concerns make it unlikely that the club will be rebuilt on its old beachfront location

"The loss of the club was truly a blow to the entire community," said Col. Mark Owen, commander, 45th Space Wing. "While we are deeply saddened by this tragic loss, it has brought us together as a total force by gathering the renamed all-ranks collocated club, the Tides."

'MatchUp' in AMC

ATWIND meets its 'match'

Through the month of August, Air Mobility Command personnel and their family members are encouraged to see how they match up.

"MatchUp" is AMC's new summertime program wherein participants can win big prizes for participating in various activities at their base," said Larry Krauss, chief, AMC Services Operations Division. "After six years of (Around The World In Ninety Days), we felt it was time to offer the AMC community something new and refreshing. MatchUp is all of that and more."

This year's program will award more than 9,600 prizes in 90 days.

MatchUp also offers more interactive play and more guaranteed prizes for each AMC installation. Each week participants can compete for a guaranteed \$100 cash prize at their base — that's 12 \$100 cash winners at each AMC installation.

Each base also has guaranteed grand prizes, including round-trip airfare for two to any US Airways destination, plus \$1,000 cash, a TiVo digital recording system with lifetime service, and \$500 cash. In addition, participants are eligible for the command drawings, which include four round-trip airline tickets to any US

Airways destination and \$5,000 cash; airline tickets and \$3,000 cash; and two drawings for Universal Studios vacation packages, which include airfare, hotel accommodation and VIP passes.

Winners of the Universal Studios prizes may elect to visit either the Florida or California location.

Based on the old TV game, "Concentration," MatchUp is a Web-based program in which participants attempt to match up various symbols in the fewest number of turns and in the fastest time.

"We're taking our summer promotions to the next level," said Scott Black,

AMC Marketing manager. "MatchUp offers a variety of prize winning opportunities, as well as just being fun to play."

Like ATWIND, MatchUp is designed to help increase awareness and participation in Air Force programs, services and activities. Players receive game pieces for participating in MatchUp designated events. Each game piece is worth an entry into the grand prize drawings and is also the participant's ticket to try their luck playing MatchUp. Players register their game pieces on-line at www.amcmatchup.com or can use the toll-free MatchUp hotline at 1-888-597-9960.

MatchUp will also feature a \$100,000 Base Race cash incentive program. By participating in MatchUp, players can help their base win thousands of dollars toward improving the quality of life at their installation.

Thanks to program sponsors, Sprint, US Airways, USAA, Coca-Cola, First Command, Tyson and Aspen, AMC's MatchUp program will award more cash and prizes than any program in the history of AMC.

Each AMC installation will offer a variety of programs, activities and services wherein participants can earn MatchUp game pieces.

Honor guard award winners named

Air Force officials recently announced the winners of the 2004 Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Base Honor Guard Awards.

The winners are:

— Honor Guard Program Manager of the Year: **Master Sgt. Angela Valentine** from Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.

— Base Honor Guard Member of the Year: **Tech. Sgt. Anthony Lamagna** from Maxwell AFB, Ala.

This is the third year of the awards program. The awards were created to recognize the top two base honor guard members worldwide. The awards are based on the entire scope of an honor guard member's duties and achievements, officials said.

DM Services stomps competitors, wins 2004 ACC arts, crafts award

By Stephanie Ritter
355th Wing Public Affairs

Air Combat Command named the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., Arts and Crafts Center and Auto Skills Center as the winners of the 2004 Services Flight and Program Award for Arts and Crafts Program of the Year.

The award came as a welcome surprise to workers at the shops.

"Winning this award is important as it is recognition for the great job the men and women working at Arts and Crafts and Auto Hobby are doing to support the D-M community," said Jody Evans, 355th Services Squadron Community Support Flight chief.

The recognition was well earned.

"We were deemed as having the best programs offered in ACC," said Tracy Dusablon, 355th SVS Arts and Crafts Center manager.

The Arts and Crafts Center offers a custom framing shop, which can

frame artwork using the latest techniques and styles; they also teach a framing class for those who like the hands on approach."

But there is more to the center.

"Our ceramic shop is one of the best in the local area with several hundred molds and a large selection of paints," Ms. Dusablon said. "The Plaque/Award shop provides some of the most innovative laser-engraved awards and gifts in the area. These include plaques, trophies, sandblasted mugs, t-shirts and coffee mugs as well as having a custom printing area. Our Gift Shop and multi-craft sales area are here for you to learn new crafts or to purchase gifts. We also offer monthly adult and children's classes and our children's summer craft classes teach a different craft to children ages 5 to 13 years."

The list of services at the Auto Hobby Shop is equally long.

"The Auto Hobby Shop is a full-service repair shop with staff available to assist anyone working on their own vehicle or contract mechanics for those who do not wish to get their hands dirty," Ms. Evans said.

They offer air-conditioning service and repair, engine-diagnostic service and other vehicle repairs, vehicle towing and lock-out service. In addition to the daily services offered, the centers are involved in cross-programming events in which they partnered with other base-wide agencies to offer programs for the D-M community. This cross-programming also helped them stand out in the ACC competition. Some of the cross-programming



Sue Harris (left) and Tracy Dusablon, both with the 355th Services Squadron, arrange a custom gift basket at the Davis-Monthan Arts and Crafts Center. The center offers creative craft merchandise. Courtesy photos

included being involved in base events like Snowy Starry Southwest Night, Library Summer Reading Program and Kids Day in the Park. In addition, they have partnered with other base agencies to offer special services for the families of deployed Airmen.

For the spouses of deployed personnel, the Auto Hobby Shop offers free oil and fluid changes which must be coordinated through the Family Support Center, Ms. Evans said. "Spouses of deployed personnel are also provided with free lockout services and free road service for flat tires when a copy of the deployed member's orders is presented."

"Above all, we want D-M's military members to know if they are deployed we are here to help take care of their family, whether it is by helping with car problems in the Auto Hobby Shop or just helping to take the stress off of them by allowing them to relax and be creative in our Arts and Crafts Center," Ms. Dusablon said. "That's what we are all about."



Larry Trueax, 355th Services Squadron, replaces the studs and works on the brakes of a customer's car. The Auto Skills Center contributed to winning an Air Combat Command level award.

Country music artist Miranda Lambert sings for Laughlin

By Tammi Byerly-Zahn
47th Services Division

Lindale, Texas native and new country music sensation Miranda Lambert got back to her roots to perform in a free concert at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, recently.

The concert was open to all Laughlin AFB service members, their families, and Department of Defense civilian personnel, on a first-come, first-served basis.

The 21-year-old country singer/songwriter is burning up the country music charts with her debut album "Kerosene," penning six of the 12 songs and co-writing five others.

According to her Epic Records biography, Ms. Lambert realized her potential when she was 16 years old, entering the Tru-Value country talent contest and appearing in the Johnny High Country

Music Review in Arlington, Texas. Since then, she has performed professionally with her band 'Texas Pride' in the Deep Ellum's Gypsy Tea Room, landed the house band job at the Reo Palm Isle Ballroom, toured throughout the state's music circuit, and placed two songs on the Texas music charts.

She gained national notoriety with her successful run on the debut season of Nashville Star in 2003. Out of 8,000 initial contestants she placed third, which helped launch her career on the fast track and provided her with exposure to the national music business.

"We were really excited to have an up-and-coming Texas star perform at Laughlin," said Maj. Rebecca Bahm, 47th Services Division chief. "It means a lot to us and Team XL to have someone willing to come to

such an isolated location in an effort to show their support for our military and base personnel."

The concert was provided by the Spirit of America Tour, a Robert and Nina Rosenthal nonprofit group that brings entertainment to military bases to boost the morale of those serving in the Armed Forces.

Since its organization in 2002, the Spirit of America Tour has conducted more than 40 concerts featuring top name performing artists, who volunteer their time to perform at stateside military installations. The Rosenthals pick up the expenses incurred by the entertainer in making the appearance.

Robert Rosenthal, a retired attorney, said the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, inspired him and his wife to launch the program for America's men and women in uniform.

"The Spirit of America Tour is our way of paying back the United States for our enjoyment of the benefits of living in America," said Mr. Rosenthal.



Country music artist, Miranda Lambert signed autographs for members of the Laughlin Air Force Base community following her recent concert. Photo by Dennis Carroll

4th SVS wins ACC-level awards

By Airman 1st Class Dominic Kuiper
Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C.,
Public Affairs

The 4th Services Squadron Marketing Department and the Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., base library were both chosen as the 2004 Air Combat Command programs of the year.

"We try to think of everyone on base and integrate as many of the squadrons as possible in one of our functions," said Cynthia Aldridge, sponsorship coordinator.

The marketing team has 18 years combined experience between the four civilians who make up the team.

"We're thrilled about winning," said Sukey Stephens-Harper, library director. "The last year has been a tremendous one for the library. We met 97 percent of the golden eagle standards, which the Air Force sets for libraries to achieve through their programs,"

According to the awards package, the marketing program showcased 22 different Services activities throughout the year. Some of the special events that were affected by the marketing team include the Halloween block party; the lighting of the Gala Christmas tree; the Leisure, Travel and Entertainment Exposition and many others throughout the year.

The library provides "top notch" equipment that helps maintain the highest resource customer satisfaction rating in the Air Force.

The library also jumped from a three-star rating in fiscal year 2003 to a five-star rating in fiscal year 2004, by the Air Force library five-star recognition system.

"We have huge commitment and support from leadership," Mrs. Stephens-Harper said. "We're a very hard working team, and our people are completely committed to serving the community."

The marketing department and the library will go on to compete at the Air Force level.



Look familiar?

If the runner in this new Air Force Services Agency fitness poster looks familiar, she should. It's 2nd Lt. Heather Estey, the 37th Services Division Officer in Charge of Fitness and Sports at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. Lieutenant Estey was selected along with Master Sgt. Aubrey Lewis of Randolph AFB, Texas, to be the "poster children" for the latest Air Force Fitness and Sports initiative.

Brooks child care providers honored

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

A trio of four-year-old singers, who had enough confidence and encouragement to sing the National Anthem from memory, underscored the important role Brooks child care providers play to early childhood development that was recently expressed in a ceremony honoring them.

Their contributions were officially recognized May 6 by Col. Laura Alvarado, 311th Human Systems Wing vice commander, when she presented 32 certificates of appreciation during a Brooks Child Development Center ceremony.

"We entrust our children to these providers who take care of our brain trust of the future. They are among 2.8 million people who've dedicated their lives to taking care of America's children," Colonel Alvarado said.

In its second year at Brooks, the ceremony was held in conjunction with National Provider Appreciation Day. The national celebration was inaugurated in 1996 by New Jersey volunteers to celebrate the contributions made by child care providers and educators.

"We have a total of 26 care providers we call program assistants. They take care of approximately 73 children," said Mary Cline, Brooks CDC director. She said the CDC here is certified by the Department of Defense and is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

"We have a veteran crew that has over 500 years of combined experience," Mrs. Cline said. The team that Col. Alvarado honored includes Mrs. Cline, Anu Attreya, Ampara "Pinky" Fuentes, Sandy Bender, Ron Hayes, Josefina Chavez, Barbara

Kelly, Feletia McLaurin, Dee Dillard, Christin Dunn, Maria Fuentes, Gloria Gaitan, Linda Gonzales, Patty Hanson, Trevor

Harrison, Irma Lopez, Irma Martinez, Deborah Mason, Sherrie Medina, Norma Monrreal, Bertha Montoya, Kathy Moore, Rachel

Morin, Sylvia Pena, Fay Stiefel, Christina Traeger, Maria Trevino, Rosetta Wright, Tanya Bell, Jeanie Smith, Yolanda Phillips and Gloria Reitzer.



A trio of four-year-olds sang the National Anthem at a recent child care provider appreciation ceremony at Brooks City-Base. The event honored a team of 26 Brooks child care providers. Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Busy first half for 36th Services

**By Ralph Ridgeway
36th Services Squadron**

With four new 36th Services facilities opening their doors since January, the squadron has had a busy first half of 2005.

The first facility to open its doors was "Zorba the Greek" restaurant at the Oceanview Conference Center. Jan. 7 was the ribbon cutting and grand opening. Advertising for the event was low key, mostly word of mouth, letting the opening date "leak"

out. It apparently leaked out really well, as "Zorbas" was packed with customers the entire evening. The restaurant continues to pack 'em' in for great Greek lunches and dinners.

The next two facility openings came on successive days with the director of Air Force Services, Art Myers, in attendance.

Bamboo Willies Beach House at beautiful, white sand Tarague Beach opened in March to the delight of more than 500 Andersen



Art Myers, director of Air Force Services, learns to Hula at the Bamboo Willies grand opening at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.

beachgoers. Bamboo Willies features indoor and outdoor bars and an air conditioned, island-themed snack bar. And, unlike the former beach house, Bamboo Willies is made out of concrete and won't blow away during our next typhoon.

The very next day saw the opening of the new Coral Reef Fitness Center. Spanning 63,088 square feet, the new fitness center is almost three times as big as its predecessor. It features two full-size collegiate/NBA basketball courts, built by the same folks who built the Orlando Magic's

court. There's also almost twice as much equipment, spin cycles, resistance machines and cardio machines, each with personal viewing screens with more than 60 cable TV channels. There's a Fitness bar where you can get a fruit smoothie, sports drink or, if you're short on time during breakfast and lunch time, you can pick up a "Fit to Go" meal provided by the Magellan Inn Dining Facility. The center's daily customer counts have doubled since the new center opened.

There is still one more facility to open. The

Andersen Teen Center, with the help of the Youth Center staff and volunteers from Services and the Civil Engineers, moved into their new digs, the former Health and Wellness Center, in May. The crew of staff and volunteers completely renovated the inside, saving the Air Force more than \$43,000 in construction cost. The result is a teen center that's designed for and by teens, even the color scheme. Add a computer room, TV viewing area, lots of video games, and a gymnasium and you just know the teens will want to hang out here.



Elvis and his dancer friends provided island-style entertainment at Bamboo Willies.

HEADBANGERS' BALL



Kevin DuBrow, front man for Quiet Riot, energizes the crowd that packed the Loring Club for the recent heavy metal show. Quiet Riot, who earned notoriety as the first heavy metal band to top the pop music charts, returned to Kunsan for the first time since 2002 along with other 80s metal giant Skid Row.

By Master Sgt. Brian Urban
8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Metal mayhem returned to Kunsan as heavy metal giants Quiet Riot and Skid Row rocked a packed house at the Loring Club during their final concert on the Korean peninsula Tuesday evening.

Over the past six days, Quiet Riot and Skid Row toured Army and Air Force installations to bring their style of "organic, in your face, almost on the verge of violence" style of hard rock, according to Quiet Riot front man Kevin DuBrow.

"It is like throwing raw meat to animals, and I mean that in the best possible way. We go out on stage, and people go absolutely nuts," according to the man who founded Quiet Riot in 1975.

In an era stylized with zebra pants, leather, big hair and even bigger chart topping hits, Quiet Riot broke out of the

Los Angeles music scene in 1983 with its multi-platinum album "Metal Health." The band's chart-topping anthem "Cum on Feel the Noize" earned notoriety as the quartet became the first heavy metal band to top the pop charts.

Making its presence known toward the end of the 80s metal scene, Skid Row is noted as one of the last mainstream metal bands to claim the spotlight before the grunge movement stole the stage in the early 90s. Skid Row reached notoriety with hard-hitting hits like "18 and Life" and its rock anthem "I Remember You."

According to Skid Row's new front man Johnny Solinger, the goal of the six-day sweep to places like Kunsan was to meet as many Airmen and soldiers as possible and show their appreciation for those entrusted with the awesome responsibility of serving on the peninsula.

Quiet Riot

continued from page 26

"We owe all of you guys a [lot of] thanks because we're here to support you, the troops," he said. "It's to say hello and show you what you're fighting for back home."

Before the concerts, members from both bands had a chance to "ride" in the base's

F-16 flight simulators while meeting with pilots, maintenance troops and support people from the 35th Fighter Squadron and others from the 8th Fighter Wing here.

"From the bottom all the way to the top, they've been most gracious. It's been awesome," Mr. Solinger said.



Johnny Solinger, Skid Row's new lead singer, flashes the 35th Fighter Squadron's "push it up" hand sign as he prepares to take a spin in one of the base's flight simulators as the pilot prepares to point out the features of the F-16 Fighting Falcon. During their stay at Kunsan, members of Quiet Riot and Skid Row received a first-hand look at F-16 operations at the Wolf Pack.



For people like Mr. DuBrow, coming to Kunsan and playing for fans young and old gives him the opportunity to do the one thing he loves to do, return to the stage and perform for those who protect the United States.

"I've got to hand it to all of you. You

rock my world. You are my heroes," he said. "Some people play music because it's what they do. In the case of me, it's what I am. I'm one of the few people who get to do what they love to do for a living. And I still get to do it after all these years, and it's a blessing."

Kevin DuBrow, front man for Quiet Riot, right, joins with bassist Chuck Wright as they belt out one of the group's classic tunes during a recent concert at the Loring Club. Heavy metal monsters Quiet Riot and Skid Row wrapped up a six-day swing through U.S. military bases across the Republic of Korea as they stopped at Kunsan to perform in front of hundreds of fans. Photos by Staff Sgt. Alan Port

Patrick SVS ICEing the cake

By Sonia Rivera
45th Services Squadron

As temperatures get higher, so do the expectations of the 45th Services Squadron at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., to provide entertainment and fun to the families of the 45th Space Wing, mission partners and retirees. Through the Interactive Customer Evaluation system, Services receives the input necessary to plan and offer the "coolest" programs possible.

ICE is a web-based tool that collects feedback on services provided. By logging on to <https://ice.disa.mil/>, customers can submit online comment cards to rate activities offered by the Services Squadron ranging from Outdoor Recreation to the Child Development Center.

"ICE is a win/win tool for us and the customer," said Chuck Nolan, 45th Services Marketing director. "We see where we excel and where we need improvement and the customer is satisfied that we are responding to their comments."

The system is beneficial because it allows customers to quickly and easily provide feedback to managers, gives leadership timely data on service quality, allows managers to benchmark their performance and



Chuck Nolan, Marketing Director for the 45th Services Squadron, reviews reports from ICE. Customer input provided through the webbased ICE system is vital to making necessary changes in Services. Photo by Sonia Rivera

compare best practices against others, and it saves money.

Customers can enjoy anonymity when filling out the comment card at home and more freely and honestly convey their thoughts and reactions to the service they received.

In five easy steps, the customer will be closer to getting response and helping Services to better serve. Log onto <https://ice.disa.mil/>. Patrons can click on Air Force CONUS, then click Patrick AFB, select the category of the service and activity they would like to

comment on and fill out the comment card.

"A lot has changed in the way we do business in Services over the last 23 years," said Tony Boob, Outdoor Recreation manager and former Youth Center director. "I tell my staff we are only as good as our last customer. ICE is one more tool that Services managers can use to improve delivery of customer service and ensure our first and last customer has a positive experience when doing business with Outdoor Recreation or any other Services activity."

FCC Provider Salute: Candy Jones

Exceeding the standard: Candy Jones, originally from Warner Robins, Ga., has been an FCC provider at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., since October 2004. She provides full-time care for six children and

also offers drop-in care and extended duty care.

Her Words: I chose to become a licensed provider because it gives me the opportunity to be home with my own children. I'm growing and learning with the children in my care. I truly enjoy what I'm doing and want to make a difference in the children's lives.





56th Services Squadron Honor Guard members from left: Senior Airman Dylan Weeks, Staff Sgt. Ricardo Reynolds, Staff Sgt. Christopher Effort, Airman 1st Class Joshua Smith, Senior Airman Alex Wong, Staff Sgt. Mona Palone and Senior Airman Emily Swigart, fire over the head of the deceased as they present a 21-gun salute at the National Memorial Cemetery at Cave Creek, Ariz. Courtesy photo

Luke Honor Guard:

Personal commitment to service, tradition, excellence

By Tech. Sgt. Janet Haliburton
56th Fighter Wing
Public Affairs

"Representing every member, past and present, of the United States Air Force, I vow to stand sharp, crisp and motionless, for I am a Ceremonial Guardsman," reads the honor guard creed.

The primary mission of the honor guard is to provide military honors at funerals for Air Force active-duty, retirees, veterans and all other eligible members of other services, when manpower permits.

Secondly, they represent the Air Force and Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., in the local community through the performance of various ceremonies at civic events, changes of command, retirement ceremonies and a unique colorful flag presentation that adds a history lesson to a traditional posting of the colors.

"Our honor guard members are superior," said Master Sgt. Stella Cook, 56th Services Squadron Honor Guard superintendent. "More than 70 percent of the base's 'below the zone' winners are

members of the honor guard. That's a testament to the type of professional and top-quality people we have."

The honor guard has a fully dedicated administrative staff and three flights that are responsible to be on duty for six 30-day "shifts" during a member's 18-month tour with the honor guard.

The Luke honor guard covers 52,000 square miles of Arizona.

There are 69 slots and 50 that are currently filled, said Sergeant Cook.

"You get to serve those who have served before you," said Senior Airman

Dustin Weyenberg, 56th SVS Honor Guard bravo flight sergeant.

The honor guard members are ambassadors to the community; the public views the members as representatives of the Air Force, according to Sergeant Cook.

"I have participated in more than 70 funerals in the last 13 months. I take pride in honoring those that have served our country," said Senior Airman Delbert Butcher, 56th SVS Honor Guard alpha flight sergeant.

Members of the honor guard fre-

quently take part in funerals, opening season sports games, civic events and dinners honoring distinguished guests and celebrities.

"You work with and meet people you wouldn't usually meet on and off base," said Senior Airman Susan Snyder, 56th SVS Honor Guard scheduling manager. "We also get to step into leadership roles we wouldn't normally be able to as Airmen."

"We are a big family here, representing a bigger Air Force family," Sergeant Cook said.

Elmendorf Library's summer reading program proves popular pastime

'Catch a Dragon by the Tale'

By Tech. Sgt. Mike Edwards
Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, Public Affairs

Each year the Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, Library, in conjunction with support from Pacific Air Forces, sponsors a summer reading program for youth ages 6-13.

This year's theme – 'Catch a Dragon

by the Tale' – involves the medieval lore of King Arthur, dragons, castles and princesses.

The summer reading program is designed to promote literacy and improve children's love of books while at the same time involving both the readers and their parents in weekly projects.

"I just love doing this for the kids,"

said Betty Stark, 3rd Services Squadron library technician. "It is a great way to get parents and their children actively involved in reading."

In addition to having weekly projects, reading program participants are also encouraged to read books on their own as part of a contest.

"At the end of the program, we'll have a drawing for prizes," said Mrs. Stark. "For each book someone reads, they get an entry. The more books they read, the more entries in the drawing they get."

While each year the summer reading program has a different theme to help keep things exciting for library staff members and families, it isn't always easy, according to Mrs. Stark.

"Last year's theme was 'Explore Your World' – an easy thing to do in Alaska," she said. "As far as activities for this year, there really aren't a whole



Laquencia Parker spends time reading her book as part of the Library's summer reading program. The theme this year is 'Catch a Dragon by the Tale.' Courtesy photos



Betty Stark, 3rd Services Squadron library technician, helps a summer reading program participant with a helmet he made.

lot of dragons or medieval-themed activities for the children to do, so we had to be creative in how we planned."

The first week's activity was to let the children decorate T-shirts with stamps in the shape of castles, knights and dragons, just to name a few.

During the second week, participants were able to make their own helmets and hats.

"We have a magician coming to perform for the kids," said Mrs. Stark. "It should be a lot of fun. I think everyone is really going to enjoy it."

The fourth week, the program participants will be treated to a cookout and a 'dragon egg' hunt. Week five will bring the children together for bowling, with the following week being the closing ceremony and a party.

A News & Views commentary

USAFE Services more than 'just businesses'

By Col. Dave Howe
USAFE Mission Support Deputy Director

You may have read a recent Stars and Stripes letter to the editor discussing cutbacks of important morale, welfare and recreation services.

Let me start off by saying we couldn't agree more with the reader about the vital role Services plays in building our military communities, boosting morale and providing welfare and recreation for our military members, civilians and their families. Wrapped into the letter, however, were misinformation and sensationalism on the extent and intent of the financial review of specific Services programs.

Here are the facts:

We have 189 "businesses" across USAFE that provide services. Most of these "businesses" provide valuable services and make a profit in spite of drastically increased labor costs. Any profit these Services programs make gets plowed right back into services for our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, civilians and their families!

Fourteen of our 189 "businesses" have been identified for review due to high labor costs, low customer support or poor management.

We are reviewing these specific activities to ensure that we use your money in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

These 14 "businesses" lost more than \$1 million during the first six months of fiscal 2005. Twelve of those 14 also lost money in fiscal 2004. That's money that comes straight from our people and their families. These 14 "businesses" were given the opportunity to provide plans to put their activities back on a solid financial footing but have been unable to accomplish that goal.

However, let me make it abundantly clear these cuts are not just about "the bottom line." A significant number of our "businesses" will never make money because the customer base is too small to make a profit, particularly at our geographically separated units.

In many cases we will absorb those losses in order to retain necessary services. But where the services provided are not critical, we must take logical action now or we'll be forced to take catastrophic action later.

There is no plan or proposal to close any USAFE youth centers. We have community and youth centers all over Europe that provide a tremendous service to our communities while remaining financially solvent, ensuring we can continue to provide these activities.

Many of us have our favorite base eating establishments. Not all of them are profitable, and, therefore, take away resources from other Services facilities. For ex-

ample, one pizza restaurant in the command lost \$38,000 in the first six months of fiscal 2005. This loss simply cannot be tolerated when there are more than 15 other eateries at this particular base.

Another comment in the letter suggested the value-added tax program might be in jeopardy. Quite the contrary — USAFE recently took the initiative to lower the costs of the forms for the vast majority of our population in order to make the program more accessible to our community at large.

The writer went on to sensationalize the issue by writing, "Picture a military community without a community center, bowling center, Outdoor Rec, Youth Center..."

To the contrary, I ask the reader to imagine a military community that not only provides these services, but does so in a profitable manner, or incurs minimal losses so money is generated to improve established services, facilities and equipment.

It isn't a question of how many bowling centers, community centers, or eateries a base has, the issue is how many can the community afford to support well.

Thank you for this opportunity to clear the air. We stand committed in USAFE to providing quality services to our people and to insuring these services are managed effectively and efficiently — so that we ALL benefit!

Project Wizard: *Program aims to increase library exploration, opportunities for service members, families*

By Maranda Rimes
100th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

The selection of new materials continues to expand at the base library thanks to one of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe's Combat and Special Interest Programs known as Project Wizard.

Project Wizard aims to increase opportunities for service members and their families to study and explore through libraries. Additional funding received from the program has enabled the library to add wireless Internet access and flat screen computer monitors, and increase the library's collection of materials, said Lance Wiscamb, library director.

Some of the newer resource materials include books on compact disc, DVDs, video tapes and online databases.

The library also has several initiatives that fall under the Project

Wizard umbrella, which include recognition programs and arts and craft events. For example, recently the library hosted an Asian Pacific American celebration, which included an origami demonstration, stories, dancing, costumes, refreshments and an Asian culture display.

Another opportunity for children to get involved with the library is the summer reading program. The theme this year is "dragons, dreams and daring deeds." The library will award summer reading program participants with weekly prizes and hand out a grand prize sometime in August.

In addition to the resources available to children, the library also offers materials for teenagers and adults. The library has more than 24,000 books and subscribes to 85 newspapers and magazines. It offers adult bestsellers and popular fiction, as well as collections for children and young adults.

Some other special collections offered include materials about the United Kingdom, and continuing education materials such as College Level Examination Program, or CLEP, and Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Educational Support, or DANTES.

People interested in library projects need to have a library card. To get a library card, people must fill out an application form and show a valid identification card. Children 10 and older may obtain a library card with their sponsor's permission.

"This library is unique because it is located in one of the original 1930s buildings and it is loaded with charming details such as fireplaces and built-in display cases," said Mr. Wiscamb. "It may be hard to find our front door, but there is a whole exciting world behind that door, once you find it, much of which can be accredited to Project Wizard."

Jonathan Sullivan, 5, son of Staff Sgt. Mike Sullivan, 52nd Component Maintenance Squadron, uses an interactive storybook Wednesday. Jonathan's mother, Brenda, uses her laptop in the background. Computer connectivity and interactive storybooks are just a few of the improvements made to U.S. Air Forces in Europe libraries through the Command and Special Interest Program, Project Wizard. Through the program, Spangdahlem Air Base and the Bitburg Annex libraries received funds for 12 new computers to be divided between the libraries. Photo by Senior Airman Amaani Lyle



Coffee shop serves up more than just another cup of 'joe'

By Karen Krull
12th Services Division

There is no need to sit in long traffic lines to get a hot cup of coffee. Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, has a place where people can get coffee, a biscotti, or a variety of other beverages and baked goods, while picking up something to read.

The library's Book Worm Coffee Shop serves a wide variety of items including teas, four blends of coffee,

espresso, cappuccino, latte, Italian sodas and smoothies.

All beverages can be flavored to suit individual tastes.

There are 29 flavors for coffees, Italian sodas and Italian cream sodas, including seven sugar-free flavors.

The Book Worm also offers a variety of diet sodas as well as fresh coffee.

"The coffee is freshly ground and roasted, and we don't brew it until the first order of the



Victoria Fisher, coffee house manager, talks with customer 2nd Lt. Mike Kirchner from the 562nd Flying Training Squadron. Photo by Steve White

"Come join the early risers and students who have already discovered what a wonderful place the Book Worm Coffee Shop is to read the morning newspaper or study for class," said Ms. Fisher.

day is placed," said Victoria Fisher, coffee house manager.

"Smoothies are made with real fruit syrup, or blended ice can be flavored with coffee or tea to make a tasty iced drink or mochaccino drink."

The coffee house also serves baked goods. Traditional biscotti and cookies are available in a number of flavors.

There are also muffins, bagels and danishes in popular varieties.

For those on the go, candy bars are for sale, and for the

candy gourmet, they have white and dark chocolate covered espresso beans.

"Come join the early risers and students who have already discovered what a wonderful place the Book Worm Coffee Shop is to read the morning newspaper or study for class," said Ms. Fisher.

Many choose to become members of the "Coffee Club" or "Jolt Club."

For every coffee ordered, the club member gets a stamp on their card and can earn a free drink when the card

is filled, according to Ms. Fisher.

The Book Worm Coffee Shop also offers call-ahead ordering and catering.

"If you want to have your favorite drink ready to go when you arrive in the morning or get ready to tackle the evening traffic, call your order in and it will be ready to go when you get there," said Ms. Fisher. "If you are responsible for arranging a breakfast or afternoon tea, consider catering with the Book Worm."

Meet the Cadre:

Preparing Altus men, women for the fight

**Photos and story by
Staff Sgt. Monique
Randolph**
Altus Air Force Base,
Okla., Public Affairs

When bullets are flying and lives are at stake, we are all Airmen, and we must all survive.

Seven men, including Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Pegueros from the 97th Services Squadron, are responsible for ensuring the men and women of Altus Air Force Base, Okla., are equipped with the skills they need to survive in the field.

Through Battlefield Deployment Training, these select few train the officer and enlisted corps alike, to survive deployments to contingency areas across the globe. They can make them drop and do pushups or jump out of trucks; they can make them low crawl through mud or run with 30 pounds of equipment, all in the name of survival.

There would be no Battlefield Deployment Training without them. They are the Cadre.

Cadre members are noncommissioned and senior noncommissioned officers handpicked by squadron leadership because they're physically fit and proven leaders, said Chief Master Sgt. Robert Walker, 97th Mission Support Group superintendent and innovator of the battlefield

deployment training program at Altus.

Once selected, they go through about three weeks of physical fitness training, as well as training in land navigation and M-16 and M-9 weapons qualification.

Once they've completed this training, they move on to the five-week Combat Leader Course at Camp Bullis located at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio.

"The Combat Leader Course is really tough and extremely physically demanding," he said. "It's the seven-level course for security forces members. They have to go through and graduate that course to obtain their seven skill level in combat and tactics."

"It's leadership under fire. We're taking non-cops and sending them to a seven-level course

outside of their (Air Force specialties), and it's working because we're training them before they go," said Chief Walker.

"Even though few of them were actually engaged in combat, they've said that if something had happened, they feel a lot more confident that they could defend themselves because of this course."



Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Pegueros
97th Services Squadron

NCO in charge, Flight Kitchen

Hometown: Alamogordo, N.M.

Area of expertise: Use of force

What you hope people gain from BDT:

Better preparation for convoys and integrated base defense in hot spots around the world

Advice for upcoming BDT class:

Drink lots of water, exercise and get plenty of rest

Putting BDT to use: Since every Airman could possibly be used to provide installation security and be involved in convoy operations, because of BDT, I now have a better idea what is expected of me to stay alive and what to do to keep those around me alive as well.

Deployments: Deployed 11 times to places ranging from Cuba, Italy, Korea, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and Bosnia

Provider honored as best in AETC

By Tech. Sgt. Janet Haliburton
Luke Air Force Base,
Ariz., Public Affairs

A Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., family member was recently named Air Education and Training Command's Family Child Care Provider of the Year for 2005. Kristen Bishop, a licensed child care provider with the Family Child Care Program, was recognized for her outstanding home child care program.

"It feels awesome to win this award," said Mrs. Bishop. "I made a goal to get to this point. I was shocked when I was told I had won — I even cried."

As part of a military family, she understands the typical military job is not 9 to 5, so operating a flexible home child care has made her a favorite with Luke families, said Lisa Weathers, 56th SVS Family Child Care Coordinator.



Kristen Bishop, licensed child care provider for Luke families, has creative play time with children in her "Hand in Hand" family child care program. Mrs. Bishop is one of many family child care providers who offer child care from their homes on base. Courtesy photo

Mrs. Bishop is also an extended duty provider.

"I have opened my door as early as 4:30 a.m. and closed it as late as midnight," said Mrs. Bishop.

Mentoring others has played a key role in her success.

"When we need someone to start up programs, we call Mrs. Bishop because she's willing to help and get other providers involved," said Mrs. Weathers.

Mrs. Bishop also organized Luke's providers' support group, that meets monthly; created a newsletter, Keeping Military Deployed Families Together; and offered a bi-monthly parent's night out at no charge.

For the newsletter, she included items related to the family child care office, but also added recipes, activities and quotes to brighten the day for children, said Mrs. Weathers.

"Kristen is a wonderful wife, mother, provider, friend and mentor," said Mrs. Weathers. "She welcomes commanders, staff and providers to her home to share child care ideas and her home set-up with others."

Mrs. Bishop said she couldn't have accomplished this without the support of her husband and their three children.

"I plan to get my degree so I can one day become a family child care coordinator or have my own freestanding daycare," said Mrs. Bishop.

"She's well deserving of the award and we're very proud of her," said Cheryl Cotton, 56th SVS Family Members Program Flight chief.

Special day for Lackland military spouses

In honor of Military Spouse Day, the Family Support Center held a Spouse Benefits Seminar recently. The FSC staff also served them a baked potato and salad brunch in honor of their support and sacrifices as military spouses. Team Lackland leaders thanked the spouses, and commanders of the Air Intelligence Agency and the 37th Training Wing cut a cake in their honor. At



left, Stepheny Gahn, wife of Staff Sgt. Joshua Gahn, 759th Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron, reads "Air Force as a Second Language," a booklet that defines acronyms used by Air Force members. Photo by Sandra Chan

Brooks youth say 'YES' to AFAS program of job, education incentives

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

High school dependents of active duty military personnel at Brooks City-Base, Texas, may say 'YES' to an Air Force Aid Society program with a positive acronym that is designed to help youngsters earn financial credit for postgraduate studies while they learn a job skill.

Called the Youth Employment Program, this initiative has for years provided Air Force dependent youth with career and educational opportunities while still enrolled in high school.

AFAS and Air Force Services are YES partners for a program where students learn valuable work skills and 'bank' dollar credits toward their post-secondary education while also having a positive impact on their base community.

"It's the first time we've participated in

the program in about eight years," says Ron Hayes, Brooks Youth Services teen coordinator.

Brooks is among 10 Air Force Materiel Command bases that AFAS has selected to participate in YES for the 2005-2006 program year that began June 1 and ends May 31, 2006.

Air Force-wide, 86 bases from nine Major Commands are participating in the program.

"The short-term goal of the program is to help adolescents obtain meaningful employment skills. The long-term goal is to help them earn funds for post high school education," said Judy Kaylor, AFAS education services assistant manager.

Program participants 'bank' \$4 in grant funding for every hour volunteered in an approved on base job. Students can accumulate as much as 250 hours over all four years of high school combined,

for a potential of \$1,000 applied toward future academic or vocational-technical training.

Additionally, participating bases are credited with \$2 for every volunteer hour completed. This money is used to support base youth program enhancements not to exceed \$10,000 annually.

AFAS officials further explained that student dollar credits will be awarded in grant form once high school graduation and post-secondary education enrollment is verified.

YES fund credits are limited to tuition, books, fees and other direct educational expenses.

According to YES rules, participating students must enroll in college or a vocational-technical program and access program funds within one year of graduating from high school.

Program eligibility is limited to depen-

dent sons and daughters of active duty Air Force members who are assigned to an AFAS selected base.

"To be eligible, a student must have one of their parents on active duty," Mr. Hayes noted.

Parent retirement or separation from the service prior to a participating dependent's high school graduation immediately terminates the student's eligibility.

AFAS officials say that credits earned up until eligibility is terminated are held in an account until the student graduates.

The local YES enrollment process begins with Mr. Hayes interviewing student candidates, followed by Youth Services director approval.

"Students who are selected must work as volunteers in a non-paid job that is not money-producing," Mr. Hayes said.

YES-eligible base jobs include assistant positions that

are clerical, administrative, recreational and customer support.

Students can also volunteer as library, coaching, law enforcement, youth programs and squadron administrative assistants.

They can also serve as journalist interns, marketing clerks, groundskeepers, fitness specialist trainees, junior camp counselors, summer reading program assistants and legal office receptionists.

To obtain a complete list visit AFAS's website or email jkaylor2@afas-hq.org or ed@afas-hq.org.

YES volunteers are prohibited from being placed in positions that support the thrift store, chapel, base retail operations or waitressing.

Red Cross positions are permitted when AFAS and the Youth Services director pre-approve the placement.



Making leis while the son shines

Airman 1st Class Jerrica Martinez helps Da Mani Gwynn make a lei during the Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, Asian- Pacific American Heritage Committee's visit to the base child development center. Committee members also visited the library for a story book hour. Photo by Steve White

Renovated McConnell Youth Center reopens

**By Airman 1st Class Angelique Smythe
McConnell Air Force Base, Kans., Public
Affairs**

The McConnell Air Force Base, Kans., Youth Center celebrated the building's renovations with a grand opening ceremony.

The building, which was built in 1968, received a face-lift to improve its appearance and the health and safety of the children and workers who use the facilities.

The \$117,000 Saber Project began in November 2004 and culminated May 2005.

"The Youth Center has experienced many changes the past seven months while the facility was closed," said Christy Burns, Family Member Programs flight chief.

New carpet, new paint, tiles, linoleum and a state-of-the-art kitchen with stainless steel appliances were added to the Youth

Center. Drop ceilings and fluorescent lights were installed in the Teen Center. And the Teen Center coordinator's office and gymnasium walls were also renovated.

"We are thrilled to be back in the building with all of the new additions and furnishings," said Ms. Burns.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony officially opened the facility to the youth of McConnell. The ribbon cutters were Col. David Kramer, 22nd Air Refueling Wing vice commander; Libby Bruce, daughter of Tech. Sgt. Freedom Bruce, 22nd Communications Squadron; Christina Martinez, 2005 McConnell Youth of the Year; and Scott Krasen, Youth Center director.

The Youth Center offers teen and pre-teen activities, field trips, educational classes, instructional classes, sports programs through the Derby Recreation Center and various camps throughout the year.

It offers programs for younger children, like Start Smart Sports, Tot gymnastics and Cookie Bookie.



Col. David Kramer, 22nd Air Refueling Wing vice commander; Libby Bruce, daughter of Tech. Sgt. Freedom Bruce, 22nd Communications Squadron; Scott Krasen, Youth Center director; and Christina Martinez, 2005 McConnell Youth of the Year, cut the ribbon at the Youth Center during the grand opening. Photo by Senior Airman Cheyenne Jackson

Snapped around Services photo page 2



Horses ride in for Dyess Reading Rodeo

Horses ride in for Dyess Reading Rodeo
Six Hardin-Simmons University horses performed for the Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, Library Reading Rodeo summer program. The select HSU team, which has performed at events including five presidential inaugurations and the Macy's parade, demonstrated synchronized riding and allowed children to get up close and personal with the horses and riders. Anywhere from 20 to 200 children attend the library's Reading Rodeo program. Photo by Airman 1st Class Kiley Olds

Summer camp youth go Hollywood!

Children from the Los Angeles Air Force Base, Calif., Youth Center Summer Camp stroll past the Grumman's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood recently. They visited the El Capitan Theatre for a live stage show and the showing of the new Disney movie, "Herbie Fully Loaded." Photo by Joe Juarez



'Van Gogh' for it!

Creativity blooms at the Schriever Air Force Base, Colo., Child Development Center as four-year-old Benjamin diligently works on a card for his mom and dad in honor of Parents Day. The CDC provides daytime care for children 6 weeks to 5 years of age. Trained staff members ensure the curriculum will meet the cognitive, social, emotional and physical needs of each child. Photo by Staff Sgt. Phyllis Duff

Education cure for summertime blues

By Sonia Rivera
45th Services Squadron

Staying true to the mission of providing programs that help youth develop physically, socially and emotionally, Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., Youth Programs is offering a stellar line up of fun and exciting summer programs. Instead of sitting in doors all day, children can hang out with friends, go on trips, stay active and learn new crafts at the Youth Center.

"The activities we have planned are geared toward producing a well



Christine Spencer (top), Vanessa Matthews and Courtney Green enjoy a game in the Cyber Café during Club Tech time. They also get the chance to hangout in the teen lounge "Blue Lagoon," but it's not all just games. They have fun cooking and doing community service, as well. Photo by Nancy Watts

rounded individual," said Teresa Andrews, Youth Programs director, "It's summertime so we want the children to have fun, but we also want to help them to

continually learn new things."

For working parents of children in grades K through 6, the Youth Center provides a school-age program. The typical day starts off

with breakfast followed by children's choice activity, then an instructor leads an activity, followed by lunch and some quiet time.

The children then go outside to play and end the day with another children's choice activity. Special activities include bowling, swimming, charity work, crafting and a trip to the King Center for a play.

Teenagers in grades 7 through 10 can enjoy a similar program in Camp Xtreme. With a similar daily schedule, the teens can also take advantage

of mentorship, community service programs and career exploration.

Both the school age and Camp Xtreme programs are for 50 hours of weekly care. Registration is open to family members of active duty, DOD personnel, NAF employees and DOD contractors and a priority schedule is enforced.

For parents who do not need full-day care but would like to encourage personal growth, weekly specialty camps are offered for different age groups from 2-4 p.m.



Youth center's 4-H show

Sequoyah Moore, 16, shows her pig, named "Pig," in the showmanship class during the Santa Barbara County 4-H exhibit day at Nojoqui Falls recently. She is the teen leader of the Vandenberg Youth Center 4-H swine group, part of a youth center program that offers the opportunity for Vandenberg children to raise and learn about swine. She joined approximately 30 other youth 4-H swine members from around the country for the competition. The Vandenberg Youth Agricultural Center features an outdoor classroom with animal pens. Photo by Kristi Bonneau

Three Goodfellow Services members best in AETC

By 2nd Lt. Chris Schultz
Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, Public Affairs

Three members of the Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, Services Division recently won individual Air Education and Training Command awards for their exceptional work during 2004.

"It's my career of choice; I love working with children and their families," Alicia Fuentes said. "I love my job."

She was recognized as the 2005 Air Education and Training Command's 2005 GS-06 and below Services Specialist of the Year for her dedication as a preschool teacher, lead teacher and building supervisor at the Child Development Center.

According to her awards packet, she designed and implemented a Spanish language program in four preschool classrooms and acts as an ambassador to Spanish-speaking parents on child development issues from language to behavior.

"Alicia is excellent, someone I can always depend on. She goes above and beyond," said Cindy Padilla, CDC director.

Her classroom was recognized during an unannounced inspection by the Air Force for a science program that used the preschool's garden for hands-on experiments.

She also planned and assisted with planning many CDC program activities including Olympic Games Day, the base-wide senior citizens intergenerational luncheon, the CDC



Alicia Fuentes

Pumpkin Patch event, the "Love One Another" luncheon, Rodeo Day and a food and clothing drive last November.

Ms. Fuentes has worked with children on military bases for the past 16 years, and the last seven years at Goodfellow. She won the 2004 annual 17th Training Wing GS-06 and below award, the AETC civilian GS-06 and below Specialist of the Quarter award for July-September 2004 and the 2004 2nd Air Force Civilian GS-06 and below of the Year award.

"My favorite part of the job is interacting with the customers," Tech. Sgt. Roy King, food service quality assurance person and winner of the 2005 Services Individual NCO of the Year, said.

As part of his job he interacts with about 2,300 customers a day in the dining facilities. According to his awards packet, Sergeant King developed a well-rounded fitness program which resulted in a 100 percent pass rate for everyone tested and was noted as the "driving force behind major improvement" by an IG inspector. He also executed a \$34,000 kitchen equipment replacement. He also started a combined government/contractor inventory which cut duplicate work saving \$16,000 in labor and conducted 30 quality assurance tests ensuring 250,000 meals met nutritional and contract standards.

Continued on next page



Tech. Sgt. Roy King

Fuentes, King, Frierson earn top honors from Air Education and Training Command

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Capt. Roy Frierson II

"I've been fortunate enough to be in a situation where I'm supported by leadership and management." Sergeant. King said, "The members of Goodfellow services have common goals."

Sergeant. King led a seven member services team to Kuwait and identified personnel shortfalls during future AEF rotations.

He designed and coordinated the very first temporary memorandum of agreement for the military through a \$48,000 contract modification, reducing the 50 percent manning deficit to zero. He is also the primary player on the \$500,000 upgrade of the Cressman Dining Facility.

Sergeant. King has been at Goodfellow for two and a half years. He was recognized as the 17th Services Division NCO of the Quarter for January-March, 2004 and April-June, 2004, and was named the 2003 and 2004 17th Services Division NCO of the Year.

He has spent 14 of his 20 years in the Air Force in services and plans on completing his degree and becoming certified in massage therapy before retiring.

"The best part of my job is the people," Capt. Roy Frierson II said. He leads over 400 civilian and military personnel operating in 26 facilities supporting more than 1.2 million customers annually.

Captain Frierson won the 2005 AETC Company Grade Officer Services Individual of the Year award.

According to his award packet, Captain Frierson is a combat proven leader who led the 477th Expeditionary Services Squadron on a \$6.5 million operation at Baghdad International Airport supporting humanitarian and special airfield operations.

He quickly converted a recreation tent into a 32 bed triage unit after an ambush on Army soldiers and maintained 100 percent accountabil-

ity for his people and assets through frequent, unpredictable rocket attacks. His leadership helped earn the 477th Air Expeditionary Group/Expeditionary Services Squadron the Air Force Meritorious Unit Award.

"My only captain squadron commander and he performed superbly," said Col. Robert Schultz, 477th AEG commander in his award packet, "put him on my team anytime."

Captain Frierson led the mortuary processing support for 274 American, coalition, civilian and Iraqi forces with "utmost dignity" during the highest casualty rates of the war and the Fallujah offensive.

He also led a complex \$900,000 beddown operation to support U.S., British and Australian forces.

At Goodfellow, he orchestrated the \$482,000 renovation project of both fitness centers and rejuvenated the unit's safety program resulting in a 30 percent reduction in mishaps.

He garnered more than \$360,000 from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, which was put back into the Goodfellow community and organized the annual Army/Navy flag football game.

"The leadership support is the best I've ever seen" said Captain Frierson, who recognizes the hard work of the other services' members. "The complete support of the team made this award possible; everyone shares in it."

These award winners represent the best of the Services Division.

According to Captain Frierson, "(They) have a sincere commitment to find out what the customer wants, and are always asking themselves, 'what can we do to make it better?'"

Tour introduces Randolph newcomers to San Antonio

By Jennifer Valentin
Randolph Air Force
Base, Texas, Public
Affairs

Since 1992, the family support center's San Antonio tour has provided a way to introduce Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, newcomers to the city.

"We encourage those new to the base to take the tour. It's a lot of fun," said Sandra Nichols, Randolph relocation assistance program manager. "Even if people have been on Randolph a while, they can come on the tour."

The tour visits historic sites such as the Alamo, Mission San Jose, Riverwalk and El Mercado. The group also stops for lunch along the way.

"The variety of places we visit gives newcomers an appreciation of San Antonio," said Ms. Nichols. "We try to include something for everyone, whether it is good food, shopping or a little bit of history."

Up to 25 people can join the tour, said Ms. Nichols. A volunteer tour guide from the base escorts the group.

"Attendees actually get off the bus and visit the sites, see the city, relax and make new friends," said Ms. Nichols. "Tour members are given the chance to enjoy San Antonio without driving downtown."

The tour is free and open to Randolph members and their families. Attendees are asked to bring money for lunch. The family support center provides free childcare through the family day care program.



The San Antonio Riverwalk. Courtesy photos



The Alamo. Courtesy photos



Cappuccino anyone?

Lisa Rutledge and Jasmine Price, baristas at the newly opened Pacific Coast Coffee shop, whip up a creamy caramel cappuccino. The shop, located in Foggio's Pizzeria at the Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., Pacific Coast Club, also features espresso, latte and mocha beverages. Drinks are customizable to suit the tastes of the customer. Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Cadette



'Reel' good time: 325th SVS teaches children about fishing, boating

A child learns how to bait a hook at the first-ever Fishing and Boating Clinic held at Bonita Bay recently. Nearly 100 children and their families attended the event, and plans are already in the works to have another one next year. Courtesy photo

By Steve Riddle
325th Services Squadron

Nearly 100 children and their families turned out recently at the 325th Services Squadron's Bonita Bay Outdoor Recreation Complex at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., for the facility's first-ever Children's Fishing and Boating Clinic.

The event featured courses on boating safety, fishing techniques and local regulations, a display of local sea creatures, boat rides and plenty of prizes.

According to Lt. Col. Marc Piccolo, 325th SVS commander, the event was a tremendous success because of

the many volunteers who gave their time and energy.

"Without the help of all of our volunteers, we wouldn't have been able to have the event that we did," Colonel Piccolo said.

At the casting station, children got the chance to test their accuracy with a fishing pole by casting a line with a small weight at the end – to simulate a hook and sinker – towards various targets on the ground. Of course several parents got in on the fun, too, and that was one of the reasons for the event.

"The whole thing was designed to be parent – child interactive," Ms.

Workman said. "We wanted it to be a fun experience for the entire family."

At the knots and rigging station, children were shown how to tie various knots used in fishing, and at the environmental station they learned about fish habitats, the harmful effects of water pollution and the proper ways to safely handle fish.

Two stations were devoted to boating and boating safety. One taught boating basics – how to get into and out of a boat, how to keep a boat balanced and the different parts of a boat.

At the boating emergency station, people received a

memorable life jacket lesson.

"We would have a group of kids get in a boat and then we'd say, 'Quick, the boat is sinking, what are you going to do?' and then they would all scramble to get life jackets," Ms. Workman said. "Most of the time they would grab one that didn't fit."

Another important station taught children about the local area, including nearby fishing and boating spots, how to identify local fish and local and state regulations. Also, children were taught about the importance of having respect for local landowners as well as public waterways.

Along with the learning stations were bouncy tents, a tank with a variety of crabs, a seahorse and several other creatures from the gulf waters, and a magnetic fishing pond for toddlers.

The games and prizes, boat rides and displays made for a fun event, and Ms. Workman said that's one of the best environments for a child to learn in.

"If you give children the opportunity to learn while they're having fun, they'll absorb the information better and remember it more," she said.

Plans are already in the works to have another event next year.

Local wizards descend on Sheppard library for new Harry Potter book

By 2nd Lt. Ian Phillips
Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, Public Affairs

Children walk around wearing black robes adorned with small patches of heritage, staring at books stacked neatly next to a table. The books' covers read Sorcerer's Stone, Chamber of Secrets or Goblet of Fire.

There was a magical feeling in the air in this vault of literary brilliance.

This may seem like Diagon Alley, where wizards, witches and students are lined up in Flourish and Blotts to meet Professor Gilderoy Lockhart, winner of "Witch Weekly's" Most-Charming-Smile Award five years in a row. But alas, it is not.

The scene is of the Sheppard Library where more than 50 muggles - non-wizarding folk - were present to be among the first people to purchase a copy of the sixth book in the Harry Potter series by J. K. Rowling, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince."

AAFES partnered with the Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, library to sell more than 90 copies on the first day copies were avail-

able. More than 250 copies were sold that weekend alone, adding to the 8.9 million copies sold in the United States and Great Britain during the first 24 hours the book was on sale.

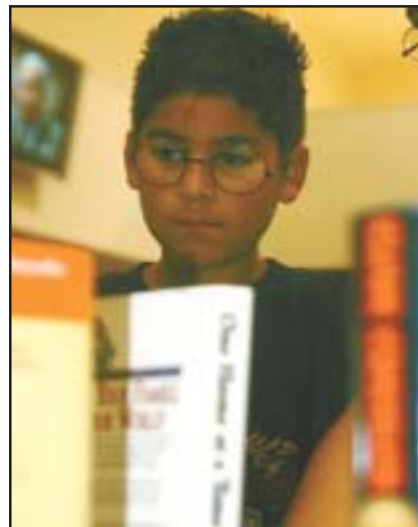
"I'm very excited about this book," said Shane Kochanski, 10, as he waited for the midnight release. "I think someone will attempt to kill Harry again in this one."

To make the time pass more smoothly while people were waiting, the library handed out a Harry Potter quiz for guests to complete for a chance to win a free book. Library staff then drew the completed quizzes out of a box to find and name the winners.

The winners won a hardcopy book of one of the previous Harry Potter novels or, when those ran out, a hardcover book from another author.

"I'm surprised I won. The quiz was kind of easy though," Mr. Kochanski said, holding his copy of a previous Potter novel.

The library staff tried hard to set a Great Hall-like feel to the atmosphere, dressing up as students from Hogwarts themselves. Both Dan Wilson, a librarian, and Julie Lamberti, a library technician,



Anthony Martinez, dressed as Harry Potter, looks through the books he can choose from after he won the raffle contest. Photo by 2nd Lt. Ian Phillips

donned the black robes sported by other Potter fans that night.

Jessica Malousek, 14, waited with friends to purchase the new book. She said she has been waiting for this one since she finished the last one.

"I relate to Cho Chang because she is really emotional about everything," Ms. Malousek said when asked who she related to the best in the Potter series.

Nicholas Hiser, a member of the 365th Training Squadron, said he related best to Harry Potter himself. "I relate to him because I've been in situations where I have been picked on like him," said Mr. Hiser. "I've read all the books so I'm pretty excited about this one."

One of the hardest questions a Harry Potter fan may have to face is which of the five previous books was their favorite, and from the looks of their answers, everyone felt differently about it.

"The fourth book is my favorite so far," said Jessica Bailey, 12. "But I

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Harry Potter mania at Sheppard

continued from page 44

can't wait to find out who the half-blood prince is. Maybe Neville because of his parents."

Mr. Hiser said his favorite was number four as well. "I liked it most because of all the interaction with the characters. In the other books that wasn't there," he said.

Year four wasn't the clear winner though. Others thought book five could give it a run for its money.

"I like book five because it has the coolest stuff in it," Ms. Malousek said. "It was the most interesting to read yet."

As Potter fans waited for the stroke of midnight, they played board games like "Harry Potter Quidditch," snacked on pretzels and

animal crackers provided by the library, drank coffees and teas from Brew U coffee and chatted with other Potter fans about what the new book might have in store.

As the seconds ticked down to midnight, a countdown began in the crowd. "3, 2, 1," was yelled as the sales began.

"I am going to start reading it tonight," Ms. Malousek said. AAFES and the base library put together a magical evening for the muggles of Team Sheppard. From atmosphere to winning books, the children and adults from the base were enchanted to leave with a copy of the newest installment in the wizarding set.



"Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince," by J.K. Rowling, "apparited" into the Sheppard Library at midnight when the sixth book in the famous series was released. Dan Winslow, the base librarian, and Jlie Lamberti, a library technician, drew names of guests at the library who won a free book. Photo by Senior Airman Chris Powell

Harry Potter fans party at Travis

By Allison McQueen
60th Services Squadron Marketing Director

The Mitchell Memorial Library's Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince Release Party awed the Travis Air Force Base, Calif., community while showcasing the library staff's creativity.

With magic wands in tow, the youth of Travis (and some older witches and wizards) donned their Hogwarts best attire for the costume contest and festivities.

Events included wand making, hat making, broom making, and assorted games.

Prizes were abundant and included issues of the newly released and highly coveted book "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince."

A magician thrilled the children and adults alike with his show and a face painter was on hand to give out magical accoutrements such as bats and lightning bolt scars.



"We had an awesome turnout for this event," said Susan Gilroy, Mitchell Memorial Library Director, "we had more than 350 youth attend and had an overwhelming response to the fun and festivities."

The Mitchell Memorial Library has more than 57,000 books in collection and circulate close to 50,000 items per year.

Their events are some of the most popular on Travis Air Force Base.

Chief Master Sgt. Jim Tyson talks to a young Harry Potter fan during the Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince Release Party at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Photo by Megan Wolff

Names, faces in the news

Davis Monthan Family Child Care Provider of the Quarter

Paula Lindo, spouse of Tech. Sgt. Cecilio Lindo, 43rd Electronic Combat Squadron, was selected as Davis-Monthan's Family Child Care Provider of the Quarter.

Ms. Lindo started her own child care business in November 2004 through

the base FCC program. All of her monthly inspections by the FCC office have been rated at 99 percent or better.

Ms. Lindo said she enjoys being able to care for children in her home on base while helping supplement her family's income.



From left, Ashlan Lindo and her mother, Paula Lindo, work with Gunnar and Jett Dooley, sons of Cortney and Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Dooley, 355th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, on an arts and craft project. Photo by Chris Sweeney

Six selected for promotion at Air Force Services Agency

The following members of Air Force Services Agency were recently selected for promotion. They are:

To technical sergeant:

Staff Sgts. Amanda Harness, Guillermo Salazarcuriel and Anne Taylor.

To master sergeant:

Tech. Sgts. Angela Jackson, Ron Kapperman and Gary Lempka.

Davis Monthan Chief's Group announces Sharp Troops

The Chief's Group recognizes Airmen they feel are outstanding for their projection of a professional appearance, outstanding bearing and exceptional professionalism.

Congratulations to **Senior Airman Ariel Barnes** of the 355th Services Squadron for being singled out for this honor.

Hanscom announces quarterly award winners

The 66th Air Base Wing at Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., announced its second quarterly award winners during a ceremony at the base theater recently.

Two winners were from the 66th Services Squadron. They are:

NAF Civilian Category 1 of the Quarter: Florence Peters is a valued member of the 66th Services Squadron. Her initiative, drive and commitment to excellence has been instrumental in improving sales at the Patriot Golf Course.

NAF Civilian Category II of the Quarter: Lester Moses manages more than 200 computers, valued at more than \$250,000, for the 66th Services Squadron.

Through his dedicated efforts, creativity, and expertise he has ensured Services personnel are able to stay "on-line" in servicing those they serve.

Agency Profile: Niki Prysock



Niki Prysock

By Lee Schwabe
Air Force Services
Agency

It was well over a decade ago that the Air Force Service Agency welcomed Niki Prysock.

Since then, Ms. Prysock has worked in several areas, making things better and collecting honors along the way.

Ms. Prysock was hired in December 1992, after putting in 27 applications.

"I guess I was just determined," she said.

Her first job with the Agency was as a division secretary.

Most recently, she was selected by Debbie Karnes in Marketing to fill the Statistical Clerk position that came open when Bob Baker retired.

Ms. Prysock has enjoyed working in a variety of different positions at the Agency. She has functioned as division secretary, directorate secretary, registrar and resource advisor assistant. Beyond job titles and responsibilities, Ms. Prysock just does what needs to be done.

A look around Ms. Prysock's work

area reveals memorabilia from the years. There are multiple plaques and certificates for Directorate Employee of the Quarter (four times), Directorate Employee of the Year (twice), Agency Employee of the Quarter along with various other recognitions.

Most recently, Debbie Karnes, Marketing Branch Chief, recognized her for going beyond the call of duty in support of the Graphics Integrated Process Team meeting in February.

Ms. Prysock laughs, saying, "Nobody ever knows everything I do in a position until after I leave."

Ms. Prysock gets involved with things happening at the Agency. She was an original member of the Agency's social committee and helped instigate Monster Bash. She's worked the Holiday Basket fundraiser and helped put together several Agency holiday parties.

Outside of the Agency, Ms. Prysock keeps busy with a variety of different things. She has two sons, 22 and 16. She enjoys visits with family and working in her garden.

Ms. Prysock teaches teen Bible classes for her church and has been going to St. Phillips College in the evenings in pursuit of an accounting degree.

Going back to school after her children were bigger was a challenge.

"Just starting college was an accomplishment,"

Ms. Prysock says. "I've been a single working mom for a long time and had to wait until conditions were right."

What many people wouldn't guess just looking at her is that Ms. Prysock has a black belt in Tae Kwon Do and has taught basic techniques to other students.

Though she doesn't have as much time to practice as she'd like, Ms. Prysock confidently states, "I can still kick butt if I need to!"

She says that Tae Kwon Do helped her develop confidence and self-esteem while attaining a series of goals.

Ms. Prysock is also learning about natural remedies and healing.

"As part of one of my classes, I actually walked on fire. That was cool," she said smiling.

From walking on fire, to just doing what needs to be done, Ms. Prysock smiles through it all and carries on, a valuable part of the Agency team.

Charleston FCC names Provider of Year

By Sherian Vickers
Family Child Care
Program Coordinator

The Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., Family Child Care Panel recently selected Cristina Brubaker as Charleston's Family Child Care Provider of the Year.

Ms. Brubaker was selected after the panel visited other provider's homes, reviewed inspection scores from their monthly unannounced inspections, along with considering the provider's community involvement and parent recommendation letters.

A provider since November 2002, Ms. Brubaker currently holds a Developmental license and is working on achieving National Accreditation through the National Association of Family Child Care.

At her home, she cares for four full-time children from infants through 4 years old. Also, Ms. Brubaker has two children, ages 5 and 7, of her own in her day care.

She has been the Extended Duty Care Provider for the past 18 months, providing more than 600 extended hours of child care in addition to her regular day care shift in 2004.

One of several initiatives Ms.

Brubaker began in her home was to create two separate learning environments - one for children who are younger than 2 years old and the other for the children older than 2 years of age.

Using this concept, each child may play and explore freely in a safe environment that is age appropriate.

Ms. Brubaker provides hands-on learning experiences



Cristina Brubaker, center, was recently named Charleston's Family Child Care Provider of the Year during the annual FCC recognition dinner. Presenting her with the award was Maj. John Nowak, 437th Services Squadron commander and Debbie Ross, Family Member Programs Flight chief with the Services Squadron.

in her home and takes the children on field trips to extend their learning opportunities.

Anyone who enters Ms. Brubaker's home can feel her love for the children in her care.

She often varies her work schedule to accommodate parent's changing work schedules and is sincere in her efforts to help each child develop to his or her full potential.

The plane facts

Melissa Smith, Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., Aero Club assistant manager, points out features of one of the club's Cessna 172s to 12-year-old Brandon Bouthot during a Tyndall Youth Center visit. Children from the Youth Center spent two days learning about the aero club, its aircraft and what it takes to be a pilot. Photo by 1st Lt. Albert Bosco



Andrews family child care provider receives top honors

By Margo Turner
Andrews Air Force
Base, Md., Public
Affairs

Caring for children in her home on base is a rewarding experience for the Andrews Air Force Base, Md., 2004 Family Child Care Provider of the Year.

Sandy Galvan, wife of Staff Sgt. Benjamin Galvan, Air Force Middle East Regional Airlift NCOIC, is a licensed child care provider and owner of Sandy's Shineytime, which she operates from her home on base.

"I care for the children like they're my own," Mrs. Galvan said. "I provide a safe, happy, healthy home-style family environment, where the children can grow physically, emotionally and socially at their own pace."

Mrs. Galvan takes care of two infants and two preschoolers during the day, as well as an infant,

while the parent works at night.

"I try to accommodate parents of children under my care, such as during base exercises, TDY, shift work and training," she said.

Mrs. Galvan said she conducts an interview with prospective parents at the Andrews Youth Center or at Child Development Center 2, which is near her home. The interviews run from one hour to an hour and a half.

During the interview, she goes over her child care, child illness and child care home policies with the parents, said Mrs. Galvan.

Parents provide personal information about their children on forms Mrs. Galvan designed.

For example, parents indicate on the form for toddlers and preschoolers if their child can dress himself and is potty trained.

Parents also provide their child's likes and dislikes, particular manner-

isms or habits such as thumb sucking or sleeping with a special blanket.

Additionally, parents inform Mrs. Galvan of their child's fears, such as sirens, any allergies they may have and their previous daycare experience.

Mrs. Galvan designs a monthly newsletter for each child. The newsletter includes photos of each child under Mrs. Galvan's care.

"The series of photos shows parents how their children have changed developmentally during their absence," she said.

When a child leaves the daycare, Mrs. Galvan gives the parents a CD-ROM containing all the photos taken of their youngster at her home.

Mrs. Galvan said she also plans daily activities for children in each age group. She uses toys, arts and crafts, songs and music and other items to help stimulate children's development in various areas, such as social skills, fine motor skills and language.

Additionally, Mrs. Galvan conducts a monthly observation of each child and writes a report

based on her observations. She holds a conference with parents six months after their children have been under her care and again when the children have been with her for a year.

"Family child care providers are required to take monthly training classes and remain current on all our certifications," said Mrs. Galvan.

Being named Andrews 2004 Provider of the Year is the second time she has been recognized. She was the Andrews Provider of the Month in May 2003.

Lackland Provider of the Year

Jennifer Schippers,
Lackland Air Force Base,
Texas' 2004 Family Child
Care Provider of the
Year, speaks to the
crowd after receiving
her award during the
second annual Family
Child Care Provider
Banquet at the Gateway
Club. Photo by Alan
Boedeker



Lackland youth take off for AF Space Camp

By Wayne Amann
37th Services Division

Summer camp for two Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, youngsters will be out of this world, figuratively speaking.

Xavier Rodriguez, 12, and Raul Garcia, 15, were selected to attend the 2005 Air Force Space Camp Program in August, at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala.

The 5-day program introduces space and aviation through a unique, fun and hands-on approach. Teamwork, self-confidence and communications are achieved through state-of-the-art simulations, missions, rocket building and robotics.

"Youth and teen center programs groom our kids for this kind of competition," Lackland Youth

Programs Teen Center Director Tom Lynds said. "The field vying for this camp is very competitive."

Mr. Rodriguez joins 31 other Air Force selects at the Space Academy for ages 12-14 while Mr. Garcia and 31 more attend the Advanced Space Academy for ages 15-18.

More than 200 applications were submitted Air Force wide, from which the 64 were chosen.

The Air Force pays the entire tuition for each person to attend, approximately \$1,000 for the Space Academy and around \$1,200 for the Advanced course.

Mr. Rodriguez, a 7th grader at Jack C. Jordan Middle School, is a former member of the Bob Lewis Elementary School Young Astronauts of America Program.

"My dream is to be an astronaut," he answered on his application.

The Space Academy will expose Mr. Rodriguez to simulated missions to a space station and crew rotation.

He can choose a Space, Aviation or Robotics track of training.

Mr. Garcia is a John Jay High School Science and Engineering Academy student.

"I'm interested in the planets and the possibility of extra-terrestrials out there," he said. "This would help us go deeper in space."

The Advanced Space Academy will give him hands-on training plus teach him the mental, emotional and physical demands astronauts face.

Fields of study include engineering, space technology and aerospace science.



Raul Garcia, left, and Xavier Rodriguez negotiate the Lackland Ropes Course recently. The pair are two on only 64 youth Air Force-wide selected for the prestigious Air Force Space Camp in Huntsville, Ala. Photo by Tom Lynds

He can select from a Pilot, Pilot SCUBA or Mission Specialist Track.

The curriculum is accredited through the University of Alabama-Huntsville. Participants earn one hour of freshman-level general science credit for UAH. They can transfer the credit to another college or their high school for their official transcript.

Air Force Space Camp is open to active members of base youth and teen centers who carry a

minimum 2.8 grade point average.

Applicants must submit two recommendation letters of no more than 100 words from significant adults in the applicant's life other than parents, and a list of extracurricular and school-based activities from the past two years with verification of participation. They're also interviewed

"It's all about effort," said Lynds who conducted the Lackland interviews. "You gotta want it."

***MONEY* makes the world go round**

Pinky Hayes uses 'green thumb' to help Brooks youth manage money

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

By all accounts, fiduciary or otherwise, Amparo "Pinky" Hayes is an anomaly. The retired Federal Reserve Bank worker who destroyed millions of aged greenbacks is helping Brooks youth stretch their financial resources through an innovative money management 'fitness program.'

Using piggy banks, play money and game playing, the wife of Brooks Youth Programs coordinator Ron Hayes engages youngsters on issues designed to educate them about money matters.

Since January, she has conducted weekly money management classes at the Brooks City-Base, Texas, Teen Center as part of a voluntary

initiative to help them appreciate the true value of money and how it can best be used to fulfill financial goals.

To Ms. Hayes, the 'buck doesn't stop with her' regarding personal financial responsibility.

"I believe today's generation needs a lot of help in managing money. I get them to think about being realistic regarding their future in terms of jobs and investments," she said.

Part counselor-confidant and full-time friend to youth, she exudes genuine concern for youngsters' financial future.

"Some kids tell me they don't know what to do with money they earn other than spend it on video games or eating out. What I do is help them improve upon or create a value system regarding money. I help them take charge of their finances," she said.

Ms. Hayes gets down to money basics in her classes. Youngsters learn about money's various de-nominations and even who appears on the bills.

"They learn the value of what money represents," she said, noting that lessons

also include budgeting, investments and bankruptcy's consequences.

She is convinced that educating youngsters about proper money management will prepare them for a more prosperous future by creating financially sound money management habits.

"My father always told me to start saving early because you can't depend on Social Security."

"In 1967, I got a job with the Federal Reserve Bank in San Antonio," recalled the 1960 Fox Tech High School graduate who served 15 of her 21 civil service years with the Federal Reserve.

She considers her work to detect counterfeits as one of her more fascinating jobs.

"A crook tried to counterfeit a small denomination using a paper towel," she said of the bill that co-workers gawked at in disbelief. She said that the most obvious fakes made her laugh.

Ms. Hayes also was involved in the destruction of old money. Money tainted by blood and other bodily fluids at crime scenes is incinerated, while worn out notes are shredded by hammer mills.

"The bills are first cut in half, then pulverized. The Fed used to sell the shredded money as novelties in mason jars," she said.

The analogy of shredding money, likened to throwing one's money away through bad habits, is not lost on her money management students. To her protégés, one's financial health is only "in the pink when staying out of the red."



Pinky Hayes displays a mason jar filled with old money she helped shred as a member of the Federal Reserve. She uses it and other props to teach Brooks Teen Center youth about money management.

Tinker teen named AFMC Youth of Year



Jeffery Riles, left, Youth of the Year at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., tutors Jonathon Egger with his homework. Jeffery was also named the Youth of the Year for both AFMC and the Oklahoma Boys and Girls Club of America. Photo courtesy Tinker Youth Center

Courtesy Tinker TakeOff

Jeffery Riles, a three-year member of the Tinker Air Force Base Youth Center, has been named the 2005 Youth of the Year for Tinker, Air Force Materiel Command Youth of the Year and Oklahoma Youth of the Year by Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

As the Tinker Youth of the Year, Mr. Riles received a certificate, a \$300 U.S. Savings Bond and a letter of congratulations from Col. Joseph Rarer Jr., chief of Services, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

As the AFMC Youth of the Year, he received a certificate, \$1,000 Savings Bond and a letter of congratula-

tions from Gen. Greg Martin, AFMC commander.

The Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year program is sponsored by The Reader's Digest Foundation and is in its 58th year. The program recognizes outstanding contributions to a member's family, school, community and Boys and Girls Club, as well as those who overcome personal challenges and obstacles.

Each state winner receives a \$1,000 college scholarship from The Reader's Digest Foundation.

Members of Boys and Girls Clubs throughout Oklahoma competed for the 2005 honor, but Mr. Riles walked away with the title.

At the Tinker Youth Center, Mr.

Riles often helps younger club members with their homework, plays games or helps out at the center's snack bar.

He maintains a stellar academic record as a senior at Midwest City High School. He is president of the high school marching band and a member of the National Honor Society, the Multi-Cultural Achievement Club and the German Club.

He also serves as the senior class vice president and executive producer of "Bomber News," a student-run television channel at the school. He also participated in a number of drama productions.

Mr. Riles is also dedicated to his

community. As a junior Rotarian for the Midwest City Rotary Club, he was instrumental in organizing a winter clothes drive for children in Iraq.

He also organized projects to encourage students to vote and served as a page in the Oklahoma State Senate. Following graduation from high school, he plans to attend Oklahoma City University, where he has received a full scholarship, and major in political science and public affairs and administration.

This summer, he will compete against other youth in Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Southwest Region. If named regional winner, he will be

awarded a \$5,000 college scholarship and advance to the national competition with a chance to win an additional \$10,000 college scholarship.

In addition to scholarship monies, he will also take home a laptop as part of his winnings. The Beaumont Foundation of America, a non-profit philanthropic organization that donates technology equipment to schools and community-based organizations in underserved areas, has partnered with Reader's Digest to donate more than \$90,000 in laptops to all 50 state Youth of the Year winners. Outfitted with state-of-the-art software, the laptops are valued at \$1,800

Kirtland summer hires make big impact

By Lisa Tabet
Kirtland Air Force
Base, N.M., Public
Affairs

Courtney Snyder is working in the outdoor recreation, one of 120 summer hires at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.

"In her short period with outdoor recreation, Ms. Snyder has infected outdoor recreation employees and customers alike with her positive attitude and her bright shining smile. Ms. Snyder's involvement with outdoor recreation has influenced an 80 percent increase of

revenue for this season. Courtney is a welcome addition to the outdoor recreation team; she exemplifies

Air Force core values and deserves to be recognized," said her supervisor, Joni Van Meir.

Joshua Curtis is also a summer hire for the outdoor recreation department. Ms. Van Meir said he has done an excellent job and is very motivated to improve the program.

"Kirtland pools are fortunate to have Mr. Curtis as a life guard. He has formed with teams



Stephanie Sanchez watches over the pool as a lifeguard for 377th Services Squadron. Photos by Lisa Tabet

to pick up some of the hard work and odd shifts that other guards do not want.

"His hard work and dedication

extends beyond both pools into off duty volunteering," she said.

Ms. Van Meir also mentioned Tony

Cochran as an exceptional summer hire in the outdoor recreation department.



Courtney Snyder loads kayaks for a day trip at Outdoor Recreation Services.



Brian Curry cleans off fitness equipment in the East Fitness Center.

FITNESS & SPORTS

Whiteman holds 4th annual Triathlon

The fourth annual Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Triathlon, was held at the base fitness center recently. The event consisted of a 430-meter swim, a 10-kilometer bike ride and a 5-kilometer run.

There were 51 participants at the event, more than double the participation from last year.

The event started with the swim, which consisted of 12 lengths in the pool. Then the contestants raced to the parking lot, dried off, geared up and started the bicycle portion of the race.



Master Sgt. Charles Sonnerberg, 509th Maintenance Squadron, crosses the finish line for the bicycle portion of the event. Tech. Sgt. Richard Bodine (black hat), 509th Services Squadron, tells Sergeant Sonnerberg his time as he crosses the line. Photo by Airman 1st Class Jason Burton

The riders peddled their way from the base pool, past the base lake, around the flight line to the end of Perimeter Road, and

back to the base pool.

After placing their bikes back in the bike rack, the triathletes finished with a run, which

led them through base housing, past the hospital and back to the final stretch in front of the base pool.

Row for summer safety

The focus on summer safety topics at Davis Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., kicked off with Base Safety Day and Cardboard Boat Race May 20. The goal of the day was to combine fun and facts to help personnel focus on the risks during the days to come. Tech. Sgt. Jeimmy Bermudez, 355th Services Squadron, rows his team's boat, the Lock Ness, during the Cardboard Boat Race. Photo by Chris Sweeney



Team Beale wins big at Recce Challenge Adventure Race

By Steve Watson
9th Services Squadron

It's the bottom of the ninth, with two outs and the bases loaded. Here's the pitch, the swing, and it's a deep one to center field. Back, back to the fence — it's out of here — a grand slam home run to win the game. The 1st Annual Recce Challenge Adventure Race, sponsored by the 9th Services Squadron at Beale Air Force Base,

Calif., held at the OAC in May to officially kick off May fitness month, was a grand slam as well.

More than 30 four-man, four-woman or mixed teams met the challenge with energy and excitement.

"We really thought this one through and had all the angles covered except for the weather," said Capt. Lee Comerford, 9th SVS. "Actually, the

weather made it a bit more adventurous."

It rained for two days before the race making for slippery conditions. It was also blustery the day of the event.

The race was grueling with a 7.5 mile mountain bike course consisting of dirt, gravel, paved roads and some impressive hills.

Then came 2.5 miles of running through swamps and grass high and uneven enough to

turn an ankle, and a half mile raft race through unseasonably cold water.

At the end of the race compliments came fast and furious. "This was what a race is all about," said one participant.

"This really brings the base together," said another.

Participants were entered in one of three categories; men, coed or women.

The winners of the race for their respective categories were the Pipehitters, (men), with a team average time of 4:11:32; the Chuckleheads, (coeds) with their time of 4:27:19; and the Desperate Housewives (women) in a time of 5:38:24.

Pizza, cold drinks, fresh fruit and

energy bars were supplied to all the participants. At the end of the race, there was a raffle.

The 9th SVS gave away two \$30 bike helmets, two \$30 speedometers for biking, two pairs of custom \$90 running shoes, two \$100 AAFES gift certificates and a \$500 mountain bike.

These prizes could be won by any race participant, not just the winners.

This event was sponsored by AAFES, Empire Shoes of Nevada City, DeCA, Sierra Central Credit Union and Van's Bicycle shop.

"You always hear talk about 'Team Beale,'" said Chief Master Sgt. Jessica Palmer, superintendent of the 940th Logistics Readiness Squadron, "and today it really feels like it."



Participants in the Recce Challenge Adventure Race paddle furiously through a half-mile raft race. The challenge, sponsored by the 9th Services Squadron at Beale Air Force Base, Calif., kicked off May Fitness Month. Photo by Steve Watson

Air Force men win 2005 Armed Forces Volleyball Championship, AF women finish a close second

The Air Force Men's Volleyball Team won the 2005 Armed Forces Men's Volleyball Championship, hosted by Fort Carson, Colo., in May. The Air Force team opened the championship by winning its match against the Navy (25-23, 25-17, 22-25, and 25-22). Master Sgt. Kliengsak Nimpachaimanatham (Hurlburt Field, Fla.) directed the team as the setter with 32 assists. Maj. Tom Klemas (Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass.) put down 16 kills, while Staff Sgt. Stephen Lorenzo (Hickam AFB, Hawaii) had six blocks. The second game of the double round-robin tournament saw the Army beat the Marine Corps 12-25, 22-25, 25-21, 25-19, and 15-7.

The Air Force won their second match of the day when they defeated the Army team 25-21, 25-23,

17-25, and 25-18.

Nimpachaimanatham had 40 assists, Lorenzo had 13 kills and 3 blocks, and Klemas contributed 12 kills. The Navy Men's team then beat the Marine Corps 27-29, 25-20, 31-29, and 25-21. Nimpachaimanatham led the Air Force team to its third win of the tournament (38 assists) when the team beat the Marine Corps 25-15, 25-14, 12-25, and 25-18. The host Army team finished the first round of play when they defeated the Navy 25-16, 25-19, 20-25, and 25-20.

The Air Force lost their first match of the championship when the Navy beat them 20-25, 25-21, 18-25, 25-18, and 8-15. Nimpachaimanatham had 50 assists in this hard-fought contest. First Lt. Kai Kahele (Hickam AFB) put down 17 kills, followed by Klemas' 13 and Staff Sgt. Tipton Street's 11.

Klemas had six blocks and six kills, while Captain David Baumgartner (Hurlburt Field) had nine kills and four blocks. The Army Men followed this match with a 25-16, 25-21, and 25-21 win over the Marine Corps. Lorenzo spearheaded a critical match over the Army in the Air Force team's fifth game with 16 kills and five blocks. Klemas and Baumgartner each added 10 kills, with Nimpachaimanatham having 43 assists. The Army beat the Marine Corps 25-19, 25-23, and 25-22 leading into the final day of the tournament. The Air Force clinched first place with a 25-15, 25-22, and 25-19 win over the Marine Corps,



The Air Force's Master Sgt. Kliengsak Nimpachaimanatham sets ...



... and Staff Sgt. Stephen Lorenzo hits!

while the Navy beat the Army 26-24, 25-19, and 25-22 for second place. Final match records for the Men's Division were Air Force 5-1, Navy 4-2, Army 3-3, and Marine Corps 0-6.

Air Force players named to the All-Tournament Team included Klemas, Nimpachaimanatham, Lorenzo, and 1st Lt. Mark Bohling (Eglin AFB, Fla.), the defensive specialist "libero" who had countless saves or "digs" throughout the competition. Based on availability, Baumgartner, Klemas, Street, and Bohling were named to the 2005 Armed Forces Men's Volleyball Team that will advance to the

Continued on next page

AF women win second; *continued from page 56*



Capt. Tharomonny In "sets" the ball for Capt. Holly Van Hofwegen during action at the 2005 Armed Forces Volleyball Championship at Fort Carson, Colo. The Air Force women came in second in the tourney. Courtesy photos

United States National Volleyball Championship in Denver, Colo.

The Air Force Women's Volleyball Team opened the Armed Forces Championship with a 25-21, 16-25-17-25, and 22-25 loss to the Navy. Capt. Tharomonny In (MacDill AFB, Fla.) led the team with 16 assists, while Capt. Holly Van Hofwegen had eight kills and nine blocks. Capt. Dawn Rawlins (Patrick AFB, Fla.) also had eight kills, along with four blocks. The Marine Corps women beat the Army in the second match 25-18, 25-14, 22-25, and 26-24. The Air Force team got untracked in their second game, beating the Army team 25-20, 25-22, and 25-20. In directed the team with 17 assists and had three serving aces. Van Hofwegen had 10 kills and 1st Lt. Erika Banks (Kirtland AFB, N.M.) finished with eight kills. The Navy team beat the Marine Corps 25-14,

25-14, and 25-22. The Air Force defeated the Marine Corps to finish their first round of the tournament by a score of 25-15, 25-12, and 25-12. Second Lt. Kristen Huitt (Whiting Field, Fla.) led the team with 12 assists, while both 1st Lt. Shaylor Billings (Vance AFB, Okla.) and Van Hofwegen had 9 kills. The Navy team then defeated the Army 25-20, 25-17, and 25-19.

The Air Force opened the second round of the tournament with a very important win over the Navy (26-24, 25-22, 17-25, 25-20). Kitt had 14 assists in this match, while In had 12 assists and five serving aces. Van Hofwegen had 14 kills, Billings had eight and 1st Lt. Gina Marino (Scott AFB, Ill.) had seven. In the next game, the Army avenged their initial loss to the Marine Corps by beating them 19-25, 25-17, 25-15, and 29-27. The Air Force continued

their winning streak when they beat the Army 25-11, 25-14 and 25-14, while the Navy ensured a share of the Armed Forces title with a final 25-14, 25-16, and 25-12 victory over the Army.

The double-elimination tournament ended with the Air Force and the Navy tied, each at five wins and one loss, while the Army and Marine Corps were tied for third with identical records of one win and five losses. The Air Force and Navy then played a best-of-three match to determine the overall winner of the women's division.

Air Force won the first game with a decisive 25-15 score, only to have Navy come back and beat them in the next game 16-25. The final game had the Air Force ahead 16-15 and serving for the final point.

However, the Navy recovered and won the final game 17-19, capturing the 2005 Armed Forces Women's Team Championship.

Four of the six starters on the Air Force Women's Team were selected to the All-Tournament Team. Huitt was named the best setter, Van Hofwegen the top middle blocker, Marino the outstanding outside hitter and Rawlins the best opposite hitter. Based on availability, Van Hofwegen, Marino, and Rawlins will also be a part of the combined team advancing to represent the Armed Forces at the 2005 United States Volleyball National Championship.

Other Air Force team members named to this team were Monica Joncour (Barksdale AFB, La.), and Brandi Ralfsnider (United States Air Force Academy).

Offutt 'steps up to the plate' at '05 College World Series

By Brent Rowse
55th Services Marketing

For the last 56 years, baseball's superstars have made a name for themselves at Johnny Rosenblatt Stadium in Omaha, Neb., home of the National College Athletic Association College World Series.

The success of the CWS depended on volunteers and donations. In the first 12 years the series was in Omaha, it lost thousands of dollars, with donors, including then Mayor Johnny Rosenblatt, picking up the bill.

While the series is much more profitable today, bringing in crowds larger than 20,000 people per game, the series still relies on support from the Omaha community.

Every year, service organizations such as Offutt's 55th Services Squadron serve as hosts to the teams while they are in Omaha. The NCAA underwrites basic expenses, food and lodging.

This year, Offutt hosted the University of Tennessee Volunteers.

Murray Krambeer, 55th SVS deputy, said the logistics of hosting a team are most hectic before the team arrives in Omaha.

"The lead-up is the most interesting part of hosting a team," Mr. Krambeer said. "They were not aware until the weekend before that they would qualify to be here. Now we have to handle the logistics of getting 45 people here, and if

they change one thing in the itinerary it's a domino effect."

As one of eight service organizations in Omaha hosting a team, the 55th SVS is responsible to pick up the team at the airport, take them to the hotel, arrange for laundry service and transportation, and show the team what Omaha is all about.

"They will get an official visit to the base," Mr. Krambeer said. "They get a luncheon at the Club, a visit to the flight line, and maybe a chance to use a flight simulator and a tour of other facilities. They get a fundamental understanding that there's a mission going on here."

Tennessee Pitcher Luke Hochevar said he was impressed by his visit to Offutt.

"It's awesome here," he said. "This place is great. The people I've met here are good at what they do and they have a passion for it. We're extremely grateful that they are protecting our country."

Mr. Krambeer said Offutt has been a CWS host for 40 years, and experience has taught him the most difficult part of hosting a team is

being available for the team at a moment's notice. "The biggest risk is not being where we need to be when the team needs us," he said. "They're in a competition and emotions are high. They're here for a reason, and it's not us. They're here to win a College World Series, and we need to respond to them and their needs."

Jason Barreuther, Outdoor Recreation director for Offutt, said the CWS gave Omaha national recognition.

"It's the biggest event in Omaha, and the greatest thing ever to happen to Omaha," he said. "It puts the city of Omaha on the national map."

Mr. Hochevar, a junior from Wray, Colo., majoring in sports management, said the excitement of the CWS is just as strong for the players as it is for the fans.

"It's an unbelievable experience," he said. "You work so hard to get here, busting your tail for three years in my case, to [play for] a national championship, and when all the running and workouts pay off it's worth it."



The University of Tennessee played the Florida Gators in the first game of the College World Series. Photo by Valerie Meyer



Col. John Daly, 55th Weapons Group vice commander at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., greets the Tennessee Volunteers at the Offutt Club. Photo by Brent Rowse

NFL star ushers in USAFE's Extreme Summer program

By Kent Harris
Stars and Stripes
European edition

The U.S. Air Forces in Europe's Extreme Summer program is off to an early start, officially kicked off June 1. An appearance by Arizona Cardinals wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald at Aviano Air Base, Spain, qualified for points for those who got the chance to meet with him.

That's also true for those stationed at Ghedi Air Base, where Mr. Fitzgerald visited, as well as RAF Lakenheath, Lajes Field and Moron Air Base.

Mandy Smith-Nethercott, charged with marketing the Extreme Summer program, said more than 4,000 people have already signed up - earning more bonus points - during early registration. That's compared to about 7,000 who participated during the entire course of the program last year. So officials hope to

get 12,000 people from Air Force communities entered this year.

That might mean those interested in winning prizes face more competition.

But Ms. Smith-Nethercott said picking up at least some points is easy.

"There's probably two or three things a week you're already doing and you'll just get points for them," she said.

The entire point system is explained on the program's Web site: www.extremesummer.com.

One of the goals behind the program is to get young Airmen and families out of their homes.

"It's an absolutely wonderful way to get out and do things you might not have done before," she said. And earn points for it.

Some prizes will be given to monthly winners. Others will go to overall winners when the program ends Aug. 31. Up for grabs: trips to Lake Tahoe, Disney World, a

NASCAR race in Atlanta or the Armed Forces Recreation Center at Garmisch, Germany. A 2005 Jeep Wrangler heads the list of prizes that officials say total more than \$150,000.

Ms. Smith-Nethercott said the program originally was designed for the children of active-duty Airmen. But airmen and civilians have categories as well.

Mr. Fitzgerald was the first celebrity visitor to participate in this year's program. Also set: "Survivor: Vanuatu" contestant (and Army drill sergeant) Lea Masters, storytellers James Bowen and Gaye Teipel and costumed crime fighter Batman.

Tech Sgt. Chris Mandell is a fireman on base and is from Phoenix.

"I follow the Cardinals," he told Mr. Fitzgerald as the two shook hands. "But usually by the time you guys play, I'm in bed."



Arizona Cardinals wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald hands an autographed picture to Staff Sgt. Michaela Maximin during a visit to Aviano Air Base, Italy. Mr. Fitzgerald, one of the NFL's top rookies last year, also visited bases at RAF Lakenheath, Lajes Field and Moron Air Base, Spain. Photo by Kent Harris/S&S

Staff Sgt. Michaela Maximin said she was glad Fitzgerald traveled to Aviano.

"It's awesome," she said, signed picture in hand. "I wish [other athletes and celebrities] would do it more often."

Fitzgerald, listed at 6-feet, 3-inches and 221 pounds on the team's Web site, dwarfed most of those around him. But he actually wasn't as big as Maximin thought he'd be.

"I thought he was going to be taller," she said.

Mr. Fitzgerald flashed a smile.

He admitted he doesn't know a lot about the military, though he pays attention to the news. An aunt and uncle are both lieutenant colonels in the Army Reserve.

"I think it's pretty easy if you're not directly involved in something or know someone who is to just detach yourself from it," he said. So he said the trip would be a learning experience. "I'm just going to try to enjoy the experience and take it all in."

AF wins silver medal in 2005 Armed Forces Men's Basketball Championship

By Steve Brown
Air Force Services
Agency

Despite a slow start, the Air Force finished second in the closest Armed Forces Men's Basketball Championship in the past 15 years at Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 17-25.

The Air Force opened against the Navy. Senior Airman Elvin Walker (Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.) led the team back from an double-digit deficit to tie the game at 60-60 with 35 seconds left on the clock. However, the Navy put the game away with a 3-point desperation shot with 2.3 seconds left. Senior Airman Kendrick Green (MacDill AFB, Fla.) topped all Air Force scorers with 16 points, while 2nd Lt. Joel Gerlach (U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.) added 15.

The Air Force suffered its second defeat when they lost 79-74 to the Army. Senior

Airman Bernard James (Beale AFB, Calif.) and Airman Green both totaled 17 points for the Air Force, while 1st Lt. Tom Bellairs (Los Angeles AFB, Calif.) garnered 10 rebounds.

The Air Force was ahead of the Marine Corps 68-66 with only 5.9 seconds remaining in the next game. After a time out, the Marine Corps got the ball to Demerick Casper who made his only field goal of the contest, a last second 3-point shot,

for a 69-68 win. Airman Green again led the Air Force with 19 points, while Capt. Corey Nelson (Schriever AFB, Colo.) pumped in 15. Airman James contributed 11 rebounds and six blocked shots.

The Air Force got its first win by defeating the Navy 80-63. Airman Green scored 19, Airman James 17, and Lieutenant Bellairs 11, in a balanced Air Force scoring attack. Airman 1st Class Antonio Robinson

(Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio) had six rebounds and three assists in this game.

The Air Force got its second win when they beat the Army 82-74. Second Lieutenant Kurtis Darden (Barksdale AFB, La.) had 16 points and six assists in this game, while Lieutenant Gerlach had 17 points and seven rebounds. Capt. Nelson added 15 points, Airman James 13, and Lieutenant Bellairs 11. Airman James also came up big on

defense with six blocked shots.

The Air Force won the silver medal by beating the Marine Corps 75-72. Capt. Nelson had 19 points and Lieutenant Gerlach 13. Both Airman James and Lieutenant Darden had 12. Airman James had five more blocked shots and Airman 1st Class Aaron Irving (Ellsworth AFB, S.D.) grabbed seven rebounds.

John Bailey (Robins AFB, Ga.) was the head coach of the Air Force team, and Karl Johnson (Shaw AFB, S.C.) was the assistant coach. The Air Force's Airman James was named to the All-Tournament Team.

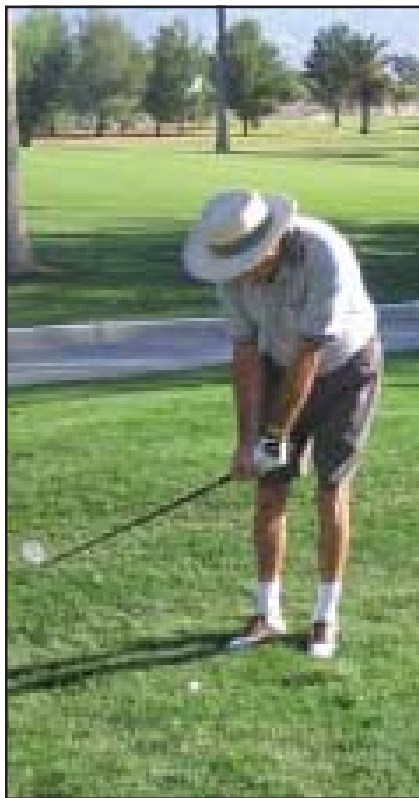
Airman James and Lieutenant Gerlach will advance with the 2005 Armed Forces Men's Basketball Team to represent the United States in the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe Basketball Championship, in December, in Mons, Belgium.



From left, Maj Stephen Stoecker (trainer), John Bailey (head coach), Airman 1st Class Antonio Robinson, 1st Lt. Justin Pendry, Senior Airman Kendrick Green, 1st Lt. Thomas Bellairs (top of head only), Senior Airman Bernard James, 1st Lt. Kurtis Darden, Senior Airman Robert Gray, 2nd Lt. Joel Gerlach, Senior Airman Elvin Walker, Airman Bryan Green, Airman 1st Class Aaron Irving, Capt. Corey Nelson, Eddie Goad, and Karl Johnson (assistant coach) Courtesy photo

Base golf course helps D-M swing into summer

Lower fares keep golfers around to battle against rising desert temperatures



Joe Rudigier, retired Army, practices chipping before playing an early morning round of golf at Davis-Monthan's Blanchard Golf Course.

Story and photo by Stephanie Ritter
Davis Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.,
Public Affairs

To stay competitive with courses off base, the Blanchard Golf Course at Davis Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., has lowered its rates for the summer.

"Basically almost all of the Tucson area courses lower their rates during the hot Tucson summer to continue to attract golfers," said Chris Sweeney, 355th Services Squadron Marketing publicist.

Monday through Friday the cost is \$19 after 9 a.m., \$16 after 1 p.m.

and \$13 after 4 p.m. until sunset. Saturday and Sunday the cost is \$19 after 1 p.m. and \$13 after 4 p.m. until sunset.

While the summer rates are based on time of day, the cost to play before 9 a.m. Monday through Friday or before 1 p.m. Saturday and Sunday are based on rank.

"If you enjoy walking the fairways they have even better rates," Mr. Sweeney said.

For \$10, those who don't want a cart can play 18 holes after 1 p.m. or golf all they want from 4 p.m. until sunset for the same rate.

According to personnel at the Golf Course, Blanchard will offer more than just discounted fares this summer.

"The course offers a wide variety of golfing activities as well as a snack bar and lounge area," said Terry Wilks, 355th SVS Blanchard Golf Course manager. "We have a complete pro shop offering the latest in golf equipment and clothing and a golf instructor is available for individual and group lessons. We also have several practice areas including pitching and chipping areas, putting greens and a driving range."

Activities at the course are not reserved for veteran players. Even those just learning to swing a club have options on base.

"The BGC offers Link Up 2 Golf, a player development initiative that

provides participants with a solid foundation about the game of golf including swing mechanics, etiquette, terminology, proper behavior and how to maintain speed of play," Mr. Wilks said. "For only \$99, participants receive eight hours of small group instruction and a variety of on-course playing experiences."

They also receive a free orientation preceding the clinic that allows participants to learn more about the program, get a tour of their host facility and meet other participants."

There are even options for those without their own set of sticks.

"For those who do not have golf clubs, rental clubs and range balls will be provided free of charge during the clinics," Mr. Wilks said. "Those completing the program will receive a free polo shirt and ball mark repair tool."

"The benefits of having the U.S. Kids Golf program here is tremendous for our youth," Mr. Wilks said. "The kids are taught the basic fundamentals using the U.S. Kids Golf Personal Tee Golf Learning Program. The program centers on promoting golf as a lifelong sport and teaches youth golf at a variety of skill levels, along with their peers."

The course is open everyday from sunrise to sunset.

Robins family fitness room lets parents get fit while children play

By Lanorris Askew
Robins Air Force Base,
Ga., Public Affairs

The Robins Air Force Base, Ga., fitness center is making getting into

shape a family affair with the addition of a new family fitness room.

The room provides customers who have small children the freedom to workout and watch their children, said John Enterman, the fitness center director.

Once an old racquetball court in disrepair, the family fitness room is now a safe haven for parents and children.

Mr. Enterman said the idea for the room stemmed from three needs surveys including two done locally.

Samantha Zuniga, a military wife and mother of two, said

the room makes it easy to exercise.

"We are so proud and so happy about it," she said. "It gives the parents who otherwise wouldn't have a chance to use the gym an opportunity to come and bring their children without having to find day care—which is nearly impossible."

Parents have wanted something like this for years, Mrs. Zuniga said.

"We are really grateful to Mr. Enterman because we know that without him this wouldn't have been possible," she said.

Mercer Zuniga, 5, agreed.

"I like playing and bouncing around," he said.

Although other Air Force bases have family fitness rooms, Mr. Enterman said they took the idea a bit further.

"We've taken what they've done at other bases and stepped it up a notch," he said.

Using quality-of-life funds, the construction cost of the new room was \$25,000 and another \$44,000 for furnishing the room with high-tech workout equipment, murals and child-safe furniture.

The end result was a 20-foot-by-17-foot child play area and a 33-foot-by-20-foot workout room separated by a glass partition. The workout area is complete with six cardio machines all of which have built in monitors with touch screens that are cable ready, so parents can watch their favorite TV programs while they are working out and can also have a direct view of their children.

"Everything was constructed up to child development center standards as far as safety goes," Mr. Enterman said. "We welcome children ages 6 months to 8 years, and there is a special parking area for strollers."



Bella Zuniga, 1, plays while her mother, Samantha, works out in the new family fitness room at Robins Air Force Base, Ga.. Photo by Sue Sapp

Keesler softball fields a big hit

By Senior Airman Lee Smith
Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., Public Affairs

The 2005 intramural softball season is well underway and the biggest hit so far may be conditions of the Triangle softball fields at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.

According to James Grubb, sports director, significant improvements have been made over the last year to the softball fields.

"We added more dirt and clay to the infield and leveled it to make it smoother," Mr. Grubb said.

"The field looks great," said Joe Hudson, 81st Medical Operations Squadron softball coach. "The infield dirt is deeper than it was a year ago. It looks better overall."

Wendy Woodruff, 336th Training Squadron and base women's softball team member for the last two years, also noticed the improvements while attending a recent game.

"I remember playing on this field," she said. "It wasn't uncom-



Brian Randazzo, left, and Tim Woodruff, both from the 336th Training Squadron-A team, go for the ball in the outfield during a battle with the 335th TRS B-team at one of the two Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., Triangle softball fields recently. Photo by Kemberly Groue

mon to finds rocks in the outfield grass. But from what I can see, the field looks great, especially the infield. It definitely looks better."

Another improvement being worked on is AstroTurf batter's boxes, Mr. Grubb pointed out. "AstroTurf batter's boxes will prevent the plate area from flooding when it rains here and it will prevent batters from digging into

the dirt and making holes when they step up to the plate," he said. "I think they will also improve the overall appearance of the field."

Mr. Grubb said all of the improvements were part of a vision, and he needed assistance to see it through.

"The 81st Civil Engineer Squadron did all of the work as far as the labor," he said. "They supported the leveling and grading of the infields; additional field dirt and clay; fence repair and making the water fountains operational."

Mr. Grubb explained that Charles Oldham, 81st Mission Support Group field maintenance specialist, had a lot to do with the field improvements.

"He is highly responsible for the current conditions of the field," he said. "The fields are the way they are now, thanks to him."

He also said there are more improvements on the way.

"We're looking into purchasing a new scoreboard, new foul poles, and a yellow fence protective guard for all of the fences," he said.

Splish-splash

Staff Sgt. Kevin Anderson, 49th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, has fun at the Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., pool with his nephew, Nick, 7, (right) and daughter, Brittany, 9. Photos by Tech. Sgt. James Hart Jr.





Airmen place sixth, seventh at U.S. National Shotgun championships

Lt. Col. John Linn takes aim during the 2005 U.S. National Shotgun Championships.

By Master Sgt. Jeffrey Julig
Air Force International Trap Team

The Air Force International Trap Team recently competed against the Nation's best shotgun shooters in a seven-day single and double-trap match at the U.S. National Shotgun Championships.

This annual event, hailed as the largest ever, brought

together athletes from around the nation to compete for the title of national champion and a spot on the U.S. National Shotgun Team.

Five Airmen represented the Air Force competed against more than 130 of the nation's top military and civilian marksman recently at the U.S. Olympic Training Facility on Fort Carson, Colo.

Staff Sgt. Mike Agee from Schriever Air Force Base, Colo. led the team in the double-trap event.

In the 150-target open match, Sergeant Agee finished sixth, only two targets behind the third place competitor.

In his first double-trap national final, Sergeant Agee broke 43 of 50 targets and held on to the sixth position.

In the single-trap event, Lt. Col. John Linn from Peterson AFB, Colo. was the top Air Force marksman, finishing seventh in the 300-target match.

Colonel Linn broke an amazing 198 out of a possible 200 targets over the last two days of the open competition, including 149 straight hits without missing

At the end of the open match, Colonel

Linn was tied for fifth with two other competitors including a 2000 Olympic medalist from the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit.

Only the top six shooters advance to the 25-target final event to determine the national champion.

Colonel Linn finished seventh after a dramatic sudden death miss-and-out shoot-off to break the tie.



Here batter, batter, batter

Pitcher Dennis Gage of the St. Joe Sluggers strikes out Mark Worley, right fielder for the Springfield Eagles. More than 130 Special Olympians participated in the recent Missouri Special Olympics central area softball tournament at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo.. The 509th Services Squadron scheduled 12 teams to play on four different fields. More than 200 volunteers from Whiteman helped by sponsoring teams or cheering for these special athletes. Photo by Airman 1st Class Jason Burton